

STAR PROMOTES STATE CHRONIC DISEASE PROGRAM SUCCESS

Objective reviews facilitate comprehensive chronic disease program implementation in states

Public Health Problem

- Chronic disease programs need to take advantage of opportunities in their state.
- Objective review by public health experts helps state programs take full advantage of factors that promote program success.

Program

- The State Technical Assistance and Review Program (STAR), developed and partially funded by the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors, provides assessment of state's use of an integrated, comprehensive approach to chronic disease prevention and control.
- As part of a four-day visit, the STAR team supplies a report detailing strengths, challenges and recommendations and follows it up with technical assistance in these areas.
- STAR combines self study and on-site peer review with extensive state partner interviews.
- The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors *Framework for Comprehensive Chronic Disease Programs* serves as a guide for STAR reviews.

Impact

State chronic disease actions based on STAR reviews include these selected examples:

- Created a partnership to assess function of local health department chronic disease programs
- Better aligned local grant programs to assure achievement of program objectives
- Developed a job description and recruiting plan for a state chronic disease epidemiologist
- Created integrated teams to enhance implementation of recommendations
- Conducted strategic planning that engaged leaders and partners
- Fostered a partnership with a health disparities center, developing new data collection tools
- Increased focus on staff development including the Evidence Based Chronic Disease course
- Began succession planning to assure continuity of program work
- Developed a database to support GIS mapping of chronic disease programs at the local level
- Used STAR recommendations as the basis of a long term action plan
- Increased state participation in broad efforts on chronic disease and health reform
- Planned and implemented a statewide conference on social determinants of health

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