

KENTUCKY WORKS TO CREATE A STATEWIDE SYSTEM OF STROKE CARE

Task force strengthens partnerships and moves prevention forward

Public Health Problem

- Kentucky ranks in the top ten among all states for both stroke and heart disease deaths.
- Stroke can leave victims with physical, mental, and emotional deficits.
- Efficient, high quality acute stroke care reduces the risk of untimely death and helps prevent disability.
- Using standard stroke transport protocols and promoting compliance with stroke treatment guidelines are two important steps to assure the quality of stroke care.

Program

- The Kentucky Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program hosted a retreat bringing together key stakeholders in Kentucky to consider actions to reduce the burden of heart disease and stroke in the state.
- As a result, the Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force was established to promote collaboration among public and private providers such as hospitals, primary care organizations and universities related to the primary and secondary prevention of heart disease and stroke as well as the elimination of related health disparities.
- Five subgroups of the task force are evidence-based prevention strategies, community and site-based interventions, integrated cardiovascular health delivery systems, policy and funding.

Impact

- The Kentucky Senate adopted a Resolution “urging the development of a statewide system of stroke care” that will improve the quality of stroke care by significantly increasing compliance with stroke treatment guidelines.
- The Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services endorsed standardized stroke transport protocols for the state, increasing the likelihood of their adoption by emergency responders.
- Public and private providers throughout the state are being educated on stroke systems of care through a contract with the University of Louisville Stroke Team.
- A new state action plan on heart disease and stroke is being developed by the Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program in cooperation with the Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force and other partners throughout Kentucky.

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