

NETWORKING AND EDUCATION TO IMPROVE COORDINATION ON DIABETES AND OBESITY

Kentucky Share-Fest event brings those with common goals together to promote effective actions

Public Health Problem

- Kentucky is experiencing twin epidemics of obesity and diabetes and has three state public health programs which are mobilizing local, regional and state partnerships to address these conditions, such as community-based diabetes coalitions, the Kentucky Diabetes Network, regional Partnership for a Fit Kentucky groups and a statewide obesity partnership.
- Obesity is also a risk factor for the development of diabetes and each condition benefits from interventions related to nutrition, physical activity and self-management.
- These Kentucky coalitions frequently have overlapping goals, objectives and interests which can be addressed more strategically through collaboration and ongoing communication at all levels.

Program

- *Coalition Share-Fest 2007*, a two and a half day conference, was jointly planned and conducted by the Kentucky Diabetes Prevention and Control Program, Nutrition and Physical Activity Program, and Obesity Prevention Program along with representatives of many coalitions. Conference funding was provided by the diabetes program and other cosponsors as cash and in-kind contributions.
- Interactive sessions designed to help participants develop or strengthen coalition leadership skills and time allotted for sharing success stories, tools and lessons learned were highlights of the conference. The conference also included panel discussions, presentations, round table discussions, interactive sessions, displays, and plenty of networking time.
- Conference participants each received a compendium of the state's successful coalition projects and contacts for additional information.

Impact

- Maximized use of resources and limited duplication of effort through joint planning and development by three federally-funded programs and two statewide coalitions
- Increased communication and collaboration among key stakeholders at the state, regional and local levels
- Provided a forum for sharing knowledge, experience, and tools and an opportunity to foster linkages among state, regional or local coalitions that focus on diabetes control, healthy nutrition and/or physical activity.
- Promoted coordination to maximize resource use among Kentucky coalitions

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