

Community/Clinical Linkages

District Health Department #10

Summary

The main objective was to create community/clinical linkages with healthcare providers and DHD #10 staff to increase availability and referrals to tobacco cessation services for low income populations. This project also included strategies designed to remove barriers and facilitate access to lung cancer screenings.

Challenges

- Developing and building relationships with healthcare providers to facilitate the referral process
- Limited options for tobacco cessation services available in these rural counties
- Connecting with populations eligible for lung cancer screening

Solution

By providing presentations and surveying healthcare providers, referral systems were set up and put in place. Training was provided in the Tobacco Treatment Specialist Program to increase cessation resources in this region. To reach populations eligible for lung cancer screening, collaboration with the Susan P. Wheatlake Cancer Center and senior centers occurred.

Organization Involvement

- The Northwest Michigan Chronic Disease Prevention Coalition was vital to successful implementation of this project.
- A partnership with Spectrum Health and Munson Healthcare provided valuable connections for program implementation.
- The Tencon Health Plan provided additional financial support to this project.



“The Tobacco Treatment Specialist educated and encouraged. She instilled in me the knowledge that stopping was a process. I think that without the follow ups, I would have begun again. I am happy to say that I am nearing the 120 day mark.” –Tobacco cessation client

Results

Over the 2 year period, this project reached 45 healthcare provider offices and 4 clinical divisions of District Health Department #10. This work generated approximately 193 referrals to our DHD #10 Tobacco Treatment Specialists and resulted in 8 health professionals trained as Tobacco Treatment Specialists.

Sustaining the Success

- The trained Tobacco Treatment Specialists will continue to promote cessation services and connect with healthcare providers.
- The health department brought on a trainer for the Tobacco Treatment Specialist Program to train additional specialists.
- Referral processes with providers for tobacco cessation and a process to refer for lung cancer screening have been developed.



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