Thursday, October 27th, 2016

Staffing Changes & Section News

Welcome to the CDPHP:

- Masako Berger has transitioned from the 1305 Evaluator position to our Health Systems Manager position, replacing Vickie Ives.
- David Olsen has transitioned from the Tobacco Program Evaluator position to our Tobacco Coordinator position.
- Kellie Ducker is our new Women's Health Connection Evaluator.
- Jonathan Kotchevar is our new CRC Evaluator.
- Amanda Santos is our new Community Health Worker Coordinator.
- Tom Weber is our new Connecting Kids to Coverage grant Coordinator.
- Jonathan Lopez has joined the team as our Connecting Kids to Coverage fiscal trainee.
- Rhonda Pena is serving as our new Administrative Assistant II.
- Reena Gupta is our new CDC Public Health Associate Program Assignee. She will be working under the Office of Food Security. She will be working with us for the next two years.

Staff that left:

- Vicky Kolar, our Heart & Stroke Coordinator, left for a Quality Improvement position with Health Insight. We are in the process of recruiting for that vacancy as well as the Women's Health Connection Coordinator.
- We are in the process of recruiting for Melanie Flores' position. She left to work with WCHD. Masako Berger's position as 1305 Evaluator as well as David Olsen's Tobacco Evaluator positons are also being recruited.
- Stephanie Abeyta, an AA II, left our section in September. We currently have two open AA positions and have begun the process to fill those which will be incredibly helpful when they come on board.

Programming

Nevada Colorectal Cancer Control Program

The new Colorectal Cancer Data Analyst, Jonathan Kotchevar, began his position 08/29/16. Jonathan will ensure contractor compliance to CDC guidelines through quality assurance oversight of enrollment, intake and fiscal data received from the contractor, utilize technical assistance from CDC to improve the analysis of quality of data and provide feedback the program's sub grantee, and will be responsible for data collection, analysis and reporting.

The Colorectal Cancer Control Program (CRCCP), began work with Volunteers in Medicine (VMSN), a nonprofit health organization that provides medical care with no cost to the uninsured and underserved residents of Clark County on August 18, 2016. CRCCP placed a Community Health Worker (CHW) at VMSN to increase the utility and uptake of colorectal cancer screening tests among VMSN's patients and implement evidence-based interventions (EBIs) recommended in The Guide to Community Preventive Services (Community Guide) including, the implementation of provider reminders, client reminders, and reduction of structural barriers.

The Colorectal Cancer Control Program in partnership with the Nevada Cancer Coalition (NCC) and the American Cancer Society (ACS) hosted a very successful Nevada Colon Cancer Roundtable conference in Las Vegas on August 26, 2016. The purpose of the Roundtable was to bring together key stakeholders in Nevada who can make the greatest impact on colorectal cancer through a united effort as a state. Discussions and presentations during the conference focused on systems to increase screening, diagnosis and treatment, as well as access throughout the state.

Comprehensive Cancer Control Program

NCCCP has recently completed an evaluation of progress made on the initiatives of the 2016-2020 Nevada Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan. This report will be made available on the NCCCP website: http://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/CCCP/Comprehensive Cancer - Home/

NCCCP, in collaboration with the Nevada Cancer Coalition (NCC), is currently working to design and conduct a number of focus groups identifying the unique needs of cancer survivors in Nevada. Focus groups are tentatively scheduled to occur in early 2017, and results will be available in June 2017. These results will be used to guide future program survivorship efforts.

Prevention efforts continue through the Sun Smart Schools Program skin cancer prevention initiative and the continued partnership for radon control efforts with the Nevada Radon Education Program.

Obesity Prevention Program

The program completed work on few major statewide projects including the development of the active transportation report: Active Transportation in Nevada: Charting a Course for the Road Ahead. The report outlines future directions to achieve a statewide Active Transportation Plan, near completion of the Early Childhood (0-8 years) Obesity Prevention State Plan, and the successful completion of a media campaign run during the month of September for Childhood Obesity Prevention Awareness Month. The purpose of the campaign was to spread awareness of childhood obesity and childhood obesity prevention, emphasizing overall immediate (during childhood) and long term health issues, increase screening for obesity in children, and increase physical activity for children and the family unit as a means of prevention. Movie theatre ads and social media posts (Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest) ran the entire month of September to get the messages out. Overall, the movie theatre ad/social media posts reached approximately 200,000 people statewide.

School Health Program

The School Health Coordinator is collaborating with the Nevada Department of Agriculture and The Nevada Afterschool Network to provide nutrition training to afterschool coordinators and Parent Teacher Association members/parents. Trainings will be offered in Clark, Washoe, Elko and Carson City. This training will review the nutrition components of the Nevada/Local School Wellness Policy (SWP) and the Smart Snack Standards that align with the policy. The training will have an emphasis on sodium intake in relation to student health, healthy fundraising, celebrations and curriculum ideas to help promote healthy schools. Participants will go through learning activities and receive a packet of multiple resources to improve student health.

Office of Food Security & Wellness

The Governor's Council on Food Security motioned to prioritize activities in the Nevada Food Security Action Plan. Surveys, stakeholder interviews, and data will determine the future of the plan as well as identify activities and target population for a 2017 action plan. Council meetings for October and December have been cancelled and will resume next year.

Community Health Worker & Connecting Kids to Coverage Programs

The Community Health Worker training program continues to support the CHW hybrid training program. Our most recent training was for a group of AmeriCorps volunteers who will serve in their own communities. Another class will begin in January and it is almost full. NSHE is launching its first online only CHW training program in addition to the in-person class it supports.

The CHW Association hosted its Board of Directors' meeting in September. It is continuing to try and define the different roles of CHWs in the state. For sustainability, the Association and CDPHP are communicating with Medicaid on potential reimbursement for some services.

UNR is performing an ROI study on the impact on CHW interventions on high cost patients through a partnership with Health Plan of Nevada. We anticipate having data to share with the CWCD in the spring.

The Section has begun work on our new Connecting Kids to Coverage grant. We have hired our two staff associated with this project, Jonathan Lopez (fiscal) and Tom Weber (coordinator). Currently, we are in the process of ensuring the training of six CHWs in our state who will become Certified Application Counselors with additional funds provided by the Silver State Health Exchange. This will enable them to assist children and families with enrollment in the Exchange, Medicaid or Nevada Check Up.

Diabetes Prevention and Control Program

The Nevada Statewide Quality and Technical Assistance Center (QTAC) for Diabetes Education has scheduled training for lay leaders for the Stanford DSME (English) for January 23-26 in Las Vegas. The QTAC held a National Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) health coach trainings on October 13 & 14 in Henderson.

The Diabetes Prevention and Control Program (DPCP) Coordinator facilitated partner calls to respond to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed rule changes document outlines reimbursement for the provision of the National Diabetes Prevention Program. Nevada provided comments on the proposed rules via the iDo (Improving Diabetes and Obesity Outcomes) Committee. The NVDiabetesEd.org website list offering thought the state for diabetes education offerings.

Tobacco Prevention and Control Program

The tobacco program has partnered with the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy to develop and finalize comprehensive tobacco cessation language for the upcoming Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) contracts. This will ensure all Nevadans covered by Medicaid will have access to comprehensive tobacco cessation coverage without barriers. The program is working to increase referrals to the Quitline through a partnership with welfare and setting up provider referrals through the Health Information Exchange (HIE). The Quitline has recently expanded nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) medications from eight to twelve weeks for the uninsured. The program is currently grant writing for continued funding that will go from March 29, 2017 to March 28, 2018. A meeting for funded partners to increase collaboration and receive targeted technical assistance has been planned for January 19-20. The tobacco program and partners communicated with Nevada Housing Division about increasing tax credits for building low-income tobacco-free housing. However, the Housing Division decided to maintain, but not increase, the tax credit incentive at one point instead of the recommended three points.