

The Douglas Diabetes Working Group Meeting
Thursday, September 30, 1999
6:00 pm-8:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church
760 10th Street
Douglas, Arizona 85607

The meeting began with introductions and a report of follow-up activities to the May 5th Meeting.

Press Releases and Publicity:

Molly Sweeny and Rosie Ortega reported on press releases and other communications with the media. Articles on the results of the study have appeared in the *Douglas Dispatch*, *Southwest Arizona Health* and the WIC Newsletter throughout the county. Radio spots on the results of the study have been done on Spanish radio stations.

Rosie Ortega requested assistance of speakers on a radio program in Spanish to discuss the study and answer questions about diabetes and resources for dealing with diabetes. Dr. Arriaga, Lourdes Fernandez and Carmen Ramirez agreed to assist her.

Ginger Ryan mentioned the possibility of organizing educational outreach and information for next year's county fair. She mentioned that the exhibit of the hospital at the fair had attracted many people. Rosie Ortega mentioned that there would be opportunities for educational outreach information at the Pinata/Mariachi Event that would be taking place at the end of February. Carmen Ramirez informed the group that November is Diabetes Month and March is Diabetes Alert Month.

Schools

Carol Huddelston and Lucy Spikes informed the group that they met with the school superintendent to discuss the survey results and possible activities through the School Advisory Group. The schools are focusing on academic achievement and related issues of school safety and absenteeism in elementary schools. Lisa Staten agreed to provide information on the linkages between physical activity, healthy children and academic achievement.

Angie Ramirez has joined the school group and has met with the school nurses. She has introduced a nutrition curriculum of four classes in several third grade classes and has begun a physical activities program in some 4th and 5th grade classes.

The group discussed the physical education requirements presently in the schools. In general it appears that there is no structured physical education in the elementary schools other than recess. In junior high schools it varies but there are some physical education activities twice a week. In high school students are required to take one semester of physical education. Dr. Tim Flood agreed to work with the school group to determine more specific information on physical education in the schools and its relationship to possible policy recommendations.

City Council

Luci Spikes reported that the city council presentation will be scheduled once the Final Report is available. Dr. Flood stated that it should be completed within the next three weeks. A presentation to City Council will be programmed for November 10th at 4PM. Dr. Arriaga will present the data and Luci asked that as many people as possible who are in the working group attend the

presentation. Carmen Ramirez hopes to attend to represent ADHS involvement in the study. Dr. Flood and Dr. Lebowitz are available to discuss any of the data as the group prepares for the presentation.

Board of Supervisors

Ginger Ryan reported that a presentation will take place once the Final Report is available.

Hospital Board

Luci Spikes and Tom Haywood reported that the study results had been presented to the Hospital Board. People at the presentation expressed concerns about the high prevalence rate and expressed strong support for involvement of the hospital in diabetes prevention and control efforts. The hospital is particularly interested in filling in the gaps as service delivery programs are implemented and providing support through specific expertise that exists within its staff and resources.

Telemedicine Diabetes Presentation

Dr. Arriaga and Carmen Ramirez reported that a telemedicine presentation on diabetes had been well attended by the medical community in Douglas. Dr. Arriaga will continue to work with ADHS and the University of Arizona Telemedicine Program to obtain more sessions related to diabetes. Carmen Ramirez stated that many health care providers want very specific hands on information on Best Practices in order to ensure quality of care for 'their diabetic patients. SEAHEC was also mentioned as a resource for supporting continuing education opportunities related to diabetes.

Chamber of Commerce

Rosie Ortega reported that a presentation for the Chamber of Commerce will be scheduled once the Final Report is available.

Rural Health Outreach Proposal

Ginger Ryan reported that the Rural Health Outreach Proposal which had been submitted by the Chiracahua Community Health Center was approved but not funded. She will be resubmitting the proposal on November 15th. Cochise County Health and Human Services, Southeast Arizona Medical Center, *Companeros*, and the Rural Health Office ha/e all expressed interest in continued collaboration on this funding effort.

HRSA support

Jill Guernsey de Zapien reported to the group that Jacob Rueda from *JADHS* was unable to attend the meeting because of travel restrictions, but wanted to int'offi1 the group that he is working with HRSA to identify potential funding for diabetes initiatives focusing on the Douglas area. He feels confident that some resources will become available in the future.

Sonoran Study

Jill Guernsey de Zapien reported that the Sonoran Diabetes Group has finished their data collection in Agua Prieta. Most of the data has been entered and analysis should begin soon. The Centro de Salud is interested in collaborating on some outreach and support group projects and has identified an ophthalmologist, and internist and a psychologist to collaborate with them on the development of programs. Some binational options include utilizing the new binational office which has been supported by SEAHEC and the two state health departments.

Binational Survey

Tim Flood reported that there is a binational initiative to implement a borderwide survey on prevalence of and risk factors for diabetes all along the U.S.-Mexico border. Arizona is participating in the initiative, but is more interested in the intervention phase which would follow data collection. He also suggested that we should begin to think about identifying resources within Arizona to support a full time diabetes coordinator to support the work and activities of this group.

Next Meeting

The group agreed to meet again on:

Thursday, December 9,1999
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church
760 10th Street
Douglas, Arizona 85607

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