

The Douglas Diabetes Working Group Meeting
Thursday December 9, 1999
5:00-7:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church
760 10th Street
Douglas, AZ 85607

The meeting began with introductions and a report of follow-up activities to the September 30th Meeting.

Presentations of Final Report:

Lucy Spikes reported on the presentation of the final report to the City Council. The presentation was well-attended. The issues of access to care and money for medications were of concern to the City Council. The City Council is now aware of the diabetes problem in the community and will continue to work closely with other community members. The presentation served to increase awareness of the community factors which influence the prevention and control of diabetes.

Rosie Ortega commented that the city does have money to build a walking path, but has not yet done so. She suggested that this be a priority area in working with the City Council. Lucy Spikes mentioned that the city is already building new parks and an aquatics center and that the community needs to be made aware of these resources. Several other groups have requested that Dr. Arriaga present to them, including La Sociedad de Obreros Mexicanos, the Rotary Club, and the Lions Club.

Rosie Ortega's presentation to the Chamber of Commerce will be scheduled for their upcoming meeting. Drs. Arriaga and Diane Poppe will present to the Board of Education and the Board of Supervisors. Dr. Cynthia Arriaga is also interested in doing a radio show in both English and Spanish.

Plans for Community Activities

Lucy Spikes, Dr. Yull Arriaga, and others met informally and discussed the need for a definite plan of action and further organization. They think that the effort should seek broader participation from community organizations and define roles.

Carmen Ramirez reminded the group that Diabetes Alert Day is coming up in March. She offered herself as a source of materials in both English and Spanish. She said that the American Diabetes Association is wanting to train people to participate in their DAR diabetes program targeted at Hispanics.

The group agreed that it would be useful to identify a "controlled" diabetic and to actively involve this person as a positive role model. Rosie Ortega said that Bobbie Benson is one such person who has already offered to work with others. Lucy Spikes mentioned that the creation of a local American Diabetes Association could be a long-range plan.

Grant Activity

Ms. Robinson reported that the Community Food Bank has submitted a grant proposal to the United States Department of Commerce. The proposal focuses on increasing access to fresh produce and nutritional education. Twenty organizations have stated that they would be willing to work with the Food Bank on this project. They are especially focusing on children with a family history of diabetes. We should hear about this proposal in three to four months. If funded, the project will begin June 1, 2000.

Jill Guernsey de Zapien reported that Chiricahua Community Health Center has resubmitted the Rural Health Outreach grant proposal. The proposal now focuses exclusively on diabetes control.

Jacob Rueda reported that some designated funds may be made available to the group in the next month through the Health and Human Resources Services Administration (HRSA): Only a not-for-profit organization is eligible to apply for the funds. The first task is to identify the applicant organization. Jacob offered to work with the group on a pre-proposal. Lucy Spikes will serve as the contact person for word of this funding opportunity.

Other Related Projects

Jill Guernsey de Zapien reported that Angie Ramirez is actively implementing her nutrition curriculum in the schools. Angie suggests that any activities to introduce physical activity to the agenda should be delayed until her program is more firmly in place. Lisa Staten sent several articles to the group about the importance of physical activity among youth.

Next Steps

Jill Guernsey de Zapien suggested that the group select a local facilitator for meetings and activities. Representatives from the University and the State will continue to be available as resources to the group. The Rural Health Office will continue to provide logistical support (meeting announcements, minutes, etc.).

The group agreed to meet again on:

Thursday, March 16, 1999
5:00-7:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church
760 10th Street
Douglas, Arizona 85607