

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR DIABETES EDUCATION AND TRAINING THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Building capacity for any public health problem involves building partnerships with key stakeholders. The Midwestern Public Health Training Center (MPHTC) has partnered with the Association of Public Health Nurses (APHN) to build capacity for diabetes education and training in Region VII and across the nation. APHN, an affiliate organization of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), represents and reaches the largest segment of the public health workforce nationwide—public health nurses. APHN provides organizational linkages with public health professionals representing other disciplines through the ASTHO Affiliate Network. MPHTC and APHN are working together to identify diabetes-related workforce needs as well as to highlight and promote evidence-based strategies for the prevention, detection, and control of diabetes.

Establishing a national advisory committee to assist in informing and implementing this diabetes initiative was the first step. National advisory committee members include representatives of state and local health departments, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, state health care collaboratives, state tribal liaison partners, academic partners including the Center for Pacific Islander Health, and several membership associations, including APHN, the National Association of School Nurses, the National Association of Occupational Health Nurses, the Regional Health Equity Council and the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors.

The goals of the Committee are to collaborate with regional and national partners to:

1. Identify potential gaps in training offerings that support capacity for evidence-based diabetes prevention, detection, and control activities within the health system;
2. Provide or promote specific training offerings to increase workforce capacity for evidence-based diabetes prevention, detection, and control activities within the health system;
3. Identify and promote specific evidence-based strategies for the prevention, detection, and control of diabetes within the health system.

The preliminary “products” of the initiative include posting of diabetes-related training and resources, creation of a diabetes webinar series to begin in June 2016, and implementation of a Region VII Diabetes Summit.

