

TITLE: Coordinated Cross-Sector Approach to Sustaining Evidence Based Health Education Programming

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Program Developers

ABSTRACT:

Problem/Context: Over 67% of Inter Community Health Network-CCO members report having at least one chronic condition. Improving patient self-management skills through health education has been shown to reduce overall healthcare utilization and decrease emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and prescription drug use, resulting in healthcare savings. Historically, partners in the region have struggled to sustain the delivery of health education programs.

Aim: The development of a health education hub and a coordinated approach to the delivery of health education programs will transform the delivery and sustainability of health education in the region.

Approach: Supported by funds from InterCommunity Health Network Coordinated Care Organization, cross sector community partners, including health services, public health, mental health, and seniors and disability services took a coordinated approach to: increase class participation, decrease barriers to attending, decrease administrative burden, develop referral processes, and identify reimbursement model(s) to sustain programming.

Conclusions: A coordinated approach and cross-sector collaboration results in an increase in class participation, type of and number of classes offered. In addition, barriers to attendance are documented, referral processes are developed, and reimbursement models identified.

Implications for Public Health: Cross sector collaboration with health systems, mental health, senior and disabilities services and coordinated care organizations can result in sustainable health education programming.

OBJECTIVE(S): Identify key partners to sustain health education programming.

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