



Blue Hills Community Health Alliance (CHNA 20)

Encompassing the towns of Braintree, Canton, Cohasset, Hingham, Hull, Milton, Norwell, Norwood, Quincy, Randolph, Scituate, Sharon, and Weymouth

Boards of Health Collaboration Grant Program

Project Summaries 2015

Project: Promoting Health, Outreach and Education Among Diverse Communities

Location: Milton, Randolph and Braintree

Public Health Nurses: Caroline Kinsella, Cheryl Cates, Mary Mulready

The public health nurses from Braintree, Milton and Randolph have developed a program to increase access to care for Creole and Vietnamese speaking patients. A job description for Community Health Workers (CHW) was developed and after interviewing several applicants two CHWs were hired per diem. The focus of the pilot project has been in Randolph. Two talented and dedicated CHWs now work up to 5 hours a week. The Vietnamese CHW has developed a website with community health resources linked to the websites of all three towns. The Creole CHW has a weekly call in radio show addressing community health needs. Both CHWs have done outreach in the community. The PH nurses meet quarterly about the project. News of the CHWs in the communities has started spreading and both Braintree and Milton have accessed the CHW services. The group submitted an update of the program in August and received Year 2 funds in September 2015.

Program: Promoting Skin Cancer Prevention and Awareness in the Community

Location: Scituate, Cohasset, Hingham and Norwell

Public Health Nurses: Kathleen Crowley, Anne Marie Powers, Mary Goodwin, Eileen Scotti, Maryellen Maguire-Eisen

The public health nurses from Scituate, Cohasset, Hingham and Norwell have partnered with the Children's Melanoma Prevention Foundation to develop and implement a community outreach program focused on Melanoma and skin cancer prevention. Some of the funds were used to purchase an interactive camera to use in the community at public venues (health fairs, farmer's markets) and presentations to groups (lifeguards, school nurses). The PH nurses have made several contacts for the venues and helped with promotion in all four communities. A two hour training was offered in spring 2015 to the PH nurses in the CHNA 20 catchment and attended by 24 people. The camera will continue to be used in the communities through late fall 2015. The group has plan to offer another skin cancer training to CHNA 20 members in spring 2016.

Boards of Health Collaboration Grant Program

Project Summaries

Program: Developing Hoarding Intervention Strategy

Location: Quincy, Weymouth and Hull

Public Health Nurses: Ruth Jones, Karen McKim, Robyn Killeen, Cindy Morrison, Joan Taverna

The PH health nurses spend a disproportionate amount of their time dealing with hoarding and related mental health cases. The nurses from Hull, Quincy and Weymouth wanted to work more closely with first responders (fire, police) and building inspectors to deal more effectively with the hoarding cases. Their project has included a two-day training with MassHousing on hoarding interventions and building task forces in their communities. Attendees at the trainings (28 total from Hull, Quincy and Weymouth) included PH nurses and first responders from each town. Assessments and other tools presented at the trainings have been instituted in Quincy and Hull as standard protocol on all hoarding, fall risk and MH related calls. They have identified a hoarding specialist who can be hired to help them navigate the difficult cases. A student intern from Regis College is working on the project for the fall 2015. Both Weymouth and Quincy are interested in using the intern to develop a dual city task force spring 2016.

Program: Healthy Living Program for Preschool Children

Location: Norwood, Canton and Sharon

Public Health Nurses: Sheila Miller, Sigalle Reiss, Karen Regan, Terri Khoury

The public health nurses from Canton, Norwood and Sharon have focused on a Health Living program targeted to very young children and their teachers and caregivers. The nurses have worked with a student intern from Framingham State to develop a basic curriculum for hand washing using best practice materials, puppets and books for distribution to the children. From October 2014 to May 2015 the hand washing presentation was made to nine preschools (including two Head Start schools) and a library. Pre and post surveys were given to caregivers and teachers regarding knowledge, interest and behavior change. Books were given to the children to take home to read with family. Eight of the ten locations have requested a repeat presentation of the program. The goal for fall and winter 2015 is to expand program to six new locations and develop a basic eating healthy module to implement spring 2016. The nurses have provided oversight. The project has been headed by the PHs nurse in Canton and Norwood and interns present the material in classrooms.