



State Report

State: Minnesota

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Projects/Issues Addressed This Year:

1. PHN Orientation Module Revisions

Public Health Practice and Nursing Orientation modules provided by MDH Nurse Consultants for new public health nurses and public health workers in local health departments were revised, delivered via webinar and will be posted on our website.

2. Education/Practice

MDH Public Health Nurse Consultants actively worked individually or in regional workgroups consisting of MDH, schools of nursing and LHDs to develop strategies to increase and improve the number and quality of population based nursing clinicals and to support workforce development.

3. State Health Improvement Plan

The Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) was developed in response to the legislature's request to address the rising cost of health care in our state. Implementation will begin in July 2009, after a competitive process, when grants will be distributed to community health boards and tribal governments across Minnesota. Grantees will be required to create community action plans, assemble community leadership teams, and establish partnerships. To improve the health of Minnesotans, grantees will utilize policy, systems and environmental changes in four settings: schools, work sites, health care and community. SHIP efforts will focus on obesity (through physical inactivity and unhealthy eating) and tobacco as the key risk factors to target interventions in fiscal years 2010-2011.

4. Quality Improvement – MLC 3

Minnesota participated in our second year of the MLC QI Collaborative funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The QI Collaborative provided resources, tools, technical assistance and training on quality improvement techniques to MDH and local public health departments. A steering committee of representatives from LPHA, MDH and SPH guides this initiative. In 2008 Minnesota created the project that included QI training, eight LHD quality improvement projects, and state and national expert consultation. Our 2009 work has focused on two initiatives, community engagement and obesity, chosen to integrate with the State Health Improvement Plan mentioned in #1.

5. Home Visiting Legislation and Planning

Funding from 2007 legislation enabled Minnesota's local public health and tribal health agencies to expand their family home visiting services to improve the health and well-being of women, children and families, particularly at highest risk for poor health outcomes. In 2008, additional funding became available through the MDH from the Minnesota Evidence-Based Home Visiting Grant to Prevent Child Maltreatment, a 5-year cooperative agreement from DHHS. The cooperative agreement focuses on building the infrastructure for evidence-based home visiting programs. The model selected for implementation and expansion in Minnesota is Nurse Family Partnership.

Projects/Issues Pending:

- Development of a statewide PHN Practice Council to address nursing practice issues (e.g., documentation, supervision).
- Development of the role of PHN Consultants in the response to an incident or event.
- Development of competencies in emergency preparedness via MDH wide training.

Issues & Special Concerns for Public Health Nursing:

- Workforce
 - Salaries in PH
 - Retirement, Retention and Succession
- Budget Concerns at State and Local Level
- Role of PHN in EP and pandemic planning