



State/Territory Report

State/Territory: Delaware

Date: May 20, 2010

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Projects/Issues Addressed This Year:

DEVELOP POLICY AND PLANS THAT SUPPORT COMMUNITY HEALTH EFFORTS; AND ASSURE PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE WHEN OTHERWISE UNAVAILABLE – Public Health Nursing, in collaboration with DPH Leadership, the Preparedness Section, Northern and Southern Health Services, the Immunization Program and the Department of Education developed the 2009 H1N1 School Vaccination Program. This effort included recruitment and training of nurse vaccinators from DPH, and our sister DHSS divisions, as well Medical Reserve Corps volunteers. Through our partnerships with schools DPH-led and contractor teams provided over 65,000 vaccinations at public, charter, private, parochial and facility schools throughout the state. One-third of Delaware's children were vaccinated through the School Vaccination Program.

ASSURING COMPETENT HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE – Public Health Nursing established and/or maintained collaborative relationships and memorandums of understanding with ten Delaware and surrounding states' colleges and universities. DPH nurses provided clinical and other learning opportunities for undergraduate and graduate nursing students, promoting understanding of public health services and consideration of public health nursing careers.

To maintain and enhance skills, DPH nursing staff received continuing education through internal and external collaboration. In-service programs presented included: Pharmacy Update (Focus: Hormones and Contraception); Breast Is Best (Focus: Development of skills which promote breastfeeding among clients); Seasonal Influenza Update, and 2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccination and School Vaccination Program for DPH and DHSS nurses, and Medical Reserve Corps volunteers. In addition, an on-line employee training program for HIPAA/Privacy was developed and placed on DE Train for all DPH staff.

EVALUATING SERVICES FOR EFFECTIVENESS, ACCESSIBILITY AND QUALITY – Public Health Nursing worked with Community Health Services and Programs to assure the quality of services through consultation, development of policy and procedures and quality assurance site visits.

In collaboration with the Family Planning Program, the Quality Assurance APN and PHN Consultants conducted site visits at contracted community-based clinics, as well as all DPH Reproductive and Sexual Health Clinics with the support of Clinic Managers and APNs. Site visits included record reviews auditing compliance with Title X program standards and pilot performance measures based on the Family Planning Council of America, Inc. (FPCA) performance management system.

Quality Assurance site visits were conducted at 2009 H1N1 School Vaccination Program clinics for Delaware public and charter middle and high schools, private, parochial and facility schools and community clinics.

DEVELOPING STANDING ORDERS – To support current and safe practice in DPH clinics Public Health Nursing develops, reviews and revises standing orders annually, and as needed. The Public Health Nursing Director and Staff collaborate with the State/Clinical Medical Directors, Northern and Southern Health Services and Programs.

Projects/Issues Pending:

Consolidation of home visiting programs; develop and transition to evidenced-based curriculum.
Exploration of health reform opportunities
Personal leadership development (Division-wide) through “LeadQuest” Program and Leadership Team Standards

2010 GOALS

- Recruit and retain public health nurses to provide essential public health services.
- Develop public health nurses’ skills in: population-based practice, taking action to reduce disparities and promoting healthy lifestyles in populations at-risk.
- Strengthen public health nursing clinical and other learning opportunities for students.
- Collaborate with Community Health Services and Programs to develop and redesign programs to address DHSS/DPH priorities; update/maintain standing orders, manuals, policies and procedures; and assure quality of services.

Issues & Special Concerns for Public Health Nursing:

Health Reform Opportunities
Electronic Health Records/ Electronic Medical Records
Staff Retention: Limited Hiring and Aging/Retiring Workforce