GEORGIA SOPHE Health Equity Project

*Enhancing Health Equity through Coalition Building: Diabetes Prevention and Management among African Americans in Jenkins County, Georgia*

Georgia SOPHE Chapter Intervention Focus

Georgia (GA) SOPHE seeks to bring together members of the Jenkins County community, including members with diabetes or those who have family members with diabetes, faith-based organizations, local public health and other health providers, local businesses, community-based organizations and academic researchers using best practice strategies to create a sustainable, capacity building programs to prevent and manage diabetes in Jenkins County, Georgia. Community members are involved in, but not limited to, collecting community data, and recruiting members for coalition to be involved with the Jenkins County Diabetes Coalition.

GASOPHE implemented the following evidence-based/best practice strategies and tools:
- The Jenkins County Diabetes Coalition, a partner of the Georgia SOPHE Chapter, implemented the Coalition Effective Inventory self assessment tool to evaluate the strengths of the coalition and its stages of development. For each coalition meeting, the Coalition Meeting Checkup form is used to assess the effectiveness of the meeting. The Jenkins County Diabetes Coalition is utilizing coalition development and evaluation tools to document effectiveness.
- Georgia SOPHE Chapter sponsored the CDC evidence-based Road to Health Training Toolkit training conducted by Janice Long from Kennesaw State University. The Road to Health Toolkit is designed for African Americans and Hispanics/Latinos at risk for type 2 diabetes, and provides materials to start a community outreach program reinforcing the message that type 2 diabetes can be delayed or prevented.
- Diabetes 101 program was provided to coalition members/community in Jenkins County. The Diabetes 101 program focused on the risk factors for diabetes, promotion of awareness of the signs and symptoms of diabetes, prevention and management of the disease; as well as physical activity, healthy eating, and addresses knowing your “ABCs”– A1c, blood pressure, and cholesterol. There is also a train-the-trainer section of the curriculum that enables lay health educators that have attended the presentation portion of the curriculum to become presenters within their own communities.
- Jenkins County Diabetes Coalition development efforts are guided by community empowerment, Coalition Technical Assistance and Training (CTAT) and capacity building models defined by Fran Butterfoss.

GASOPHE is assisting Jenkins County Diabetes Coalition to develop a sustained community-based outreach service and support for diabetes prevention and management. GASOPHE is working with Jenkins County Diabetes Coalition conduct the photovoice project and implement the Community Readiness Model. In addition, GASOPHE is working with Georgia Diabetes Coalition to establish a regional diabetes coalition in the Southeast Georgia area. Most recently, Jenkins County Diabetes Coalition is collaborating with community members to implement the Road to Health and Power to Prevent diabetes programs.

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Collaborative Partnerships

Partnerships are at the heart of GA SOPHE's philosophy and approach to public health capacity building and improving individual and community health. GASOPHE Chapter Partners include:

- American Cancer Society
- American Heart Association
- Bump it up a Buck Coalition
- CDC
- Chattanooga Affiliate
- Emory University
- Georgia Diabetes Coalition
- Georgia Public Health Association
- Georgia Rural Health Association
- Georgia State University
- Georgia Southern University
- Georgians for a Healthy Future
- Gordon County Chamber of Commerce
- Jenkins County Diabetes Coalition
- North Georgia Health District 1-1
- North Georgia Health District 1-2
- Partner Up! for Public Health
- Policy Leadership for Active Youth
- REACH Legacy Project 2009
- State of Georgia BCCCP
- Susan G. Komen
- Georgia Department of Public Health

Project Dissemination

GASOPHE Chapter project dissemination activities included one manuscript submission, four conference presentations, and two newspaper publications.

GASOPHE “Enhancing Health Equity through Coalition Building: Diabetes Prevention and Management among African Americans in Jenkins County, Georgia” abstract was presented at:

- SOPHE & NACDD 2011 Joint Academy and Midyear Meeting: A Tapestry for Change: Addressing Chronic Health Issues in a Dynamic World on May 2-4, 2011 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. (Oral Session)
- Georgia SOPHE Annual Meeting: Diversity & Technology at the Crossroads of Public Health on May 6, 2011 in Norcross, GA. (Oral Session)