

## **Hancock County Board of Health:** *Hancock County Turns up Red*

**Summary:** Being in the red is never a good thing and especially when it comes to late stage colon cancer. That is where Hancock County has found itself on the American Cancer Society cancer maps. A red connotation means that the county is in the top 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of Iowa counties that have colon cancer found at stage four. Cancer at any stage can be a challenging diagnosis but to have it diagnosed at a late stage takes away many options for cure or remission. Screening for colon cancer is available and can prevent these cancers from being found at a late stage. In response to this data Hancock County Wellness Coalition decided to take implement and initiative to address this issue.

**Challenge:** Most people do not like to talk about cancer in the first place and when it is colon cancer the topic becomes even more difficult. The screenings available to check for colon cancer can be cost prohibitive and sometimes embarrassing to explain to clients. It can also be difficult to reach the population that does not have health insurance to cover screenings or have insurance at all. For this reason many people do not get the needed screenings at the correct age which results in cancers being diagnosed at a later stage.

**Solution:** The Hancock County Wellness Coalition initiated a project to increase awareness for colorectal cancer screening and to reach out to that population that has never done any type of colorectal cancer screening. The coalition partnered with Hancock County Public Health and Hancock County Memorial Hospital to provide FIT test screening kits to people over the age of 50 or those with a history of colon cancer in their family regardless of income or insurance coverage. The CTG assisted with awareness and promotion. Coalition members went to a basketball game between two of the larger school districts in the county and signed up people to get a FIT test. Members also went to local grocery stores and set up a booth to sign people up. The intent was to get more people to do a FIT test and then have the colonoscopy if the FIT test was positive.

**Results:** This initiative was able to reach some people that would never have considered testing because they were approached at a venue other than a medical facility. It helped raise awareness in our citizens about the problem colorectal cancer is in our county. It was a successful initiative in that we did get people to sign up for screening that would not have come into a clinic or health facility to do so.

**Future Directions:** This initiative was just one small step towards increasing awareness of the problem colon cancer is in our county and the ways to reduce the number of late stage cancers. The coalition continues to get the word out about screening and awareness at every opportunity. We also are working with our local providers to talk with all of their clients over 50 about the importance of screening for colorectal cancer. The coalition will continue to track the number of people signed up to get a FIT test and the number that go on to have a colonoscopy. The hope is that we will see our late stage colon cancer diagnosis rate go down over the next 5 years.

**Scott County Board of Health:** *Partnership Solidified to Provide the Stanford Chronic Disease Self-Management Program in Scott County*

**Summary:** The Scott County Health Department (SCHD) has solidified a partnership with Generations Area Agency on Agency (Generations) to offer the Stanford Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP) in Scott County. SCHD met with the staff and trainers at Generations to discuss roles and responsibilities for providing CDSMP classes. A Memorandum of Understanding is being developed based on these discussions. SCHD is also working with Generations to update trainers on the new CDSMP curriculum. Master Trainers will complete an online update training in early fall and a Peer Training will be held in November.

**Challenge:** Limited financial support is available to Generations to support the provision of CDSMP classes and trainings. SCHD is able to provide support to promote the program, but does not have the ability to support direct implementation of the classes. This makes it more difficult for Generations to commit to providing this service, as the six week classes require significant staff time to organize and conduct.

**Solution:** Generations has shown a sincere willingness to partner with SCHD to provide the CDSMP in Scott County, despite the ever-changing environment and lack of funds to support staff time. They understand and value the mutual benefit of working together on this initiative and, therefore, are willing to provide the financial support needed to secure staff for the program.

**Results:** SCHD and Generations have agreed to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to outline the roles and responsibilities of each party as they move forward with this partnership.

**Future Directions:** A final Memorandum of Understanding will be signed by SCHD and Generations. Generations' two Master Trainers will receive an online Master Trainer Update training in early fall, and will conduct a Peer Training on the new curriculum in November. Following the rollout of the new curriculum and trainings, Generations and SCHD will begin promoting and providing CDSMP in Scott County.

**Webster County Board of Health:** *Webster County Health Partners Using Standardized Tool to Manage Chronic Disease*

**Summary:** Our community health coalition has been working on implementing a chronic disease management program that would be provided across the continuum of care in our community. The goal was to have providers, clinicians, home health nurses, nursing facilities and health department staffs all provide the same message for managing chronic disease in our community. This is becoming reality! Trinity Regional Medical Center, which is the hospital, Trimark Physicians Group, which are the primary care physicians, Trinity Home Health Agency staff, and the nursing facilities staff have been trained utilizing the Integrated Chronic Disease Self-Management tool. This tool compliments and mirrors the Stanford Chronic Disease Management Program being implemented by the Webster County Health Department. Our goal is to build a strong foundational alignment around chronic disease management through the providers and the chronic disease self-management program to the community. This alignment can be adapted to whatever environment the patient is living in. Caregivers across the continuum have been trained in these models. Webster County Health Department staff will be trained by the end of July on the Stanford model with anticipation to implement in October or November. Primary care physicians are eager and anticipating this implementation for our community. Our health partner coalition is discussing a direct referral process to the Chronic Disease Self-Management class.

**Challenge:** Educating the primary care physicians on the referral process. Implementing the program into the community and having the community understand our plan for a standardized way of communicating between patients, care givers, primary care providers, and community resources.

**Solutions:** Provider education and community outreach. We need to keep the main goal of providing a continuity of care the main message with all our outreach and educational efforts.

**Results:** Community health partners have been actively engaged in taking the first steps to begin. Even though the entire process has not been fully implemented, primary care providers are eager to implement this program into the community and have taken steps during this first year of CTG to begin implementing this fall.

**Future directions:** Once classes begin in Oct/Nov. the Webster County Health Department will interview participants on the effectiveness of the class and how the class relates to what the Trimark staff is also instructing. Results will be shared with the primary care providers. Updates and changes will be provided if necessary.

**Lessons learned:** If you think everyone knows what you do in the community...they don't! Reiterate your message and how you can assist in the process. You will state this information again, and again.