

2018 LGFCU Excellence in Innovation Award Project Evaluation

Project ID	HS-8
Title of Program	Adult Health Public-Private Partnership
Program Category	
Submission Date	6/1/2018 4:27:48 PM
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Implementation Date	3-Oct-17
FLSA Designation	Exempt
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Description of Productivity Improvement

Through a public-private partnership, the Cumberland County Department of Public Health has been able to provide an increase in adult health services while having a reduction in funding. By partnering with Stedman-Wade Health Services Inc., the Health Department went from offering adult health services two days a week to having the Adult Health clinic open five days a week and being able to accept new patients. Over the course of this partnership, the Adult Health Primary Care clinic has been able to serve 346 unduplicated patients for a total of 619 total face-to-face encounters.

This is an increase in productivity because after County funding was cut, service hours were drastically reduced. The Health Department received a Community Health Grant through the North Carolina Office of Rural Health that totaled less than a third of original operating costs, and patients were still able to receive the medical care they needed. Partnering with another agency allows residents to be served at the Health Department for a reduced cost to County taxpayers.

The Community Health Grant was awarded to assure access to primary care for vulnerable, underserved and medically indigent patients in the County. The grant funded \$148,000 for one year to focus on providing access to primary and preventive health care at the Cumberland County Health Department. Due to success in year one, the grant was refunded for a second year at \$141,500.

Description of why this project was initiated

The Cumberland County Department of Public Health serves uninsured, Medicaid, Medicare, and Blue Cross Blue Shield patients. Over 94% of the population seen are uninsured, Medicaid, and Medicare individuals. The target population for this project consisted of adults who need to access the Cumberland County Adult Health Primary Care Clinic where they are able to obtain comprehensive medical care.

A reduction in County funding for fiscal year 2017-2018 led to a decrease in available Adult Health Services provided at the Public Health Department. The Adult Health clinic saw a reduction in days of services starting on July 1, 2017. Services were reduced from five days to two days per week. As a result, an innovative public-private partnership began between the Department of Public Health and Stedman-Wade Health Services. Stedman-Wade Health Services began providing comprehensive adult health primary care on October 3, 2017. This partnership allowed the continuation of primary care services for adults five days a week at the County Public Health Center. Patients who previously were served by the County-funded clinic were able to utilize services from Stedman-Wade according to the same fee scale. In addition to providing a medical home for the current Adult Health patients, the partnership allowed for the clinic to accept new patients, which was not possible under the County-funded clinic.

While having a County-run Adult Health Clinic is not a mandated public health service, there is a large need in the county for these primary care services. The need is evident through reoccurring themes from our County's Community Health Assessment and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's County Health Rankings, which include chronic diseases of diabetes, obesity, and hypertension. The Adult Health clinic provides services to meet these chronic disease needs as well as comprehensive primary care services. Also included in the medical services available are: physical exams, laboratory services on-site, cancer screenings, cardiovascular risk assessments, depression screening and treatment, e-prescribing, pulmonary function tests, and specialty referrals.

Cumberland County provides the space for the clinic and helps subsidize lab services for this clinic; while Stedman-Wade employs the staff and provides medical supplies for the patients that are seen. To date the partnership continues to flourish and most importantly County residents have an accessible and affordable option for primary health services.

Quantifiable results (sustainability, cost savings, cost avoidance and/or a higher level of service).

Indication of what resources were used and what was done with any accrued time savings

In order to sustain this partnership, the Cumberland County Department of Public Health has been able to secure grant funding through the North Carolina Office of Rural Health. The awarded Community Health Grant will allow for some of the provider's cost, the lab fees, and interpreting services to be covered by the grant.

Grant funding was initially awarded for \$148,000 and has also been secured for another year at \$141,500. Prior to the closing, the clinic cost the County \$600,000 to operate.

By having a primary care clinic for adults, community members are able to access the appropriate level of service for conditions that may not require emergency attention. The average for one emergency department visit in North Carolina in 2016 was estimated to be \$1,233. With providing underserved populations a place to receive high quality and the appropriate level of medical care, we are reducing costs from unnecessary emergency department visits. Additionally, decreasing the number of primary care type visits to the emergency department allows emergency room to treat higher acuity and more complex cases.

This public-private partnership remains a cost savings for the County, as it is funded through a grant. While grant funding can be variable, as a County and agency we are committed to continuing to find funding opportunities in order to sustain and provide this much needed service to the County's most vulnerable residents.

Other descriptive information

Important Dates:

- July 1, 2017- County-funded Adult Health Clinic services reduced to two days per week
- July 1, 2017- Grant funding awarded and began working on partnership with Stedman-Wade
- October 3, 2017 - Stedman-Wade Health Services provides Adult Health services