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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



**DIABETES INITIATIVE**  
A National Program of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



## *Maximizing Patient Choice*

Self Management in a FQHC

AADE Annual Meeting 2006

**Dawn Heffernan**



# *Holyoke Health Center*

- **JCAHO accredited**
- **Federally Qualified CHC**
- **Western Massachusetts**
- **17,277 medical patients**
- **6,722 dental patients**
- **162 employees**
  - ✓ 25 medical providers
  - ✓ 3 dentists
  - ✓ On-site retail pharmacy
- **One of the highest diabetes mortality rates in Massachusetts**
- **Nearly 100% of our patients live at or below the poverty level**





## *Multiple Interventions provides ample opportunity for ongoing follow up and support*

- Breakfast Club
- Chronic Disease Self-Management Classes
- Community Health Workers
- Diabetes Education Classes
- Exercise Classes
- Individual Appointments with the diabetes educator and the nutritionist
- Snack Club



# *Breakfast Club*

- Eleven Sessions
- Nutritious Breakfast
- Correct Portion Sizes
- Balanced Meals
- Variety of Foods
- New food products introduced
- Label reading
- Hands on learning opportunities
- Incentives and raffles





# *Supermarket Tour*

- Practice skills learned in class
- Patients with low literacy levels benefit
- Assess patient knowledge of products and food selection
- Hands on learning





# *Chronic Disease Self-Management Program*

- Six, two hour sessions
- Intervention Focus
  - Goal Setting
  - Problem Solving
  - Cognitive Techniques
  - Breathing Techniques





# *Individual Appointments with Diabetes Educator and Nutritionist*

- Medication Management
- Nutrition Therapy
- Self-Monitoring Blood Glucose
- Prevention of Complications
- Exercise
- Preventative Health Care
- Diabetes Self-Management Programs
- Goal Setting/Problem Solving







# *Drop In Snack Club*

- Informal gatherings
- Meet Program Staff
- Diabetes Bingo
- Raffles with healthy prizes
- Goal Setting
- Problem Solving
- Referral to other programs





# Exercise Class





# *Community Health Workers*

- Bridge between the community and the health center
- Co-lead Programs
- Outreach
- Telephone Follow-Up
- Joint Visits with Providers
- Teaching
- Social Support
- Goal Setting/Problem Solving
- Collaboration with the nurses and providers in the clinic





# *Nurse and Community Health Worker Collaboration*

- Follow up and support for patients not seen by their provider in the last 4 months
- Registry report generated every month
- Patients identified
- Nurses call patients, send letters and then refer to the community health workers
- Community health workers reattempt phone contact, letter and then provide a home visit to patients address



# *Interventions*

- Flexible
- Initiated by patients and providers
- Allow for repetition of programs
- Low Literacy
- Social
- Fun
- Interactive