



InTouch

Published by the Greater Flint (Michigan) Health Coalition

Merry Christmas • Blessed Eid • Happy Kwanzaa Happy Hanukkah • Feliz Navidad

NEW WEBSITE – CHECK IT OUT!

The Greater Flint Health Coalition is pleased to announce the development of a new website to offer a multitude of information and resources to the community, GFHC partners, and anyone else interested in knowing more about the important work of the Coalition.

The following is included on the website:

- GFHC's mission, vision, history, and 2007-2012 strategic plan;
- GFHC's member organizations, board members and funders;
- Overview of GFHC Projects & Initiatives, both present and past with complete reports available;
- Recent Publications and Newsletters;
- GFHC Overview Video;
- FHEO Program application and information;
- Much much more.

Please visit www.gfhc.org to explore all the new resources and information, which are now just a few clicks away.

THE FHEO PROGRAM: STILL A MODEL AFTER ALL THESE YEARS

When the Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) initiative began in 2006, the Flint Healthcare Employment Opportunities (FHEO) Program was chosen as a healthcare sector workforce development program that could enhance efforts to transform the regional economy in cooperation with partner efforts of the Mid-Michigan Innovation Team (MMIT) among thirteen Michigan counties (Bay, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Huron, Ingham, Lapeer, Livingston, Midland, Saginaw, Sanilac, Shiawassee, and Tuscola).

A visit by Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm in 2004 saw her call for the creation of twelve Regional Skills Alliances to be established throughout the State. She shined a light on the FHEO Program saying, "...we will follow the pioneering example recently set in Flint" referring to the FHEO Program's partnership as a "win-win for the Flint area."

National recognition would follow for the FHEO Program model, culminating with the June, 2008 U.S. Department of Labor award of \$2 million to the State of Michigan for the Mid-Michigan Partnership for Training in Healthcare (M-PaTH) Project. The M-PaTH Project utilizes the vast MMIT network and will train 400 dislocated workers throughout the thirteen MMIT counties. The Greater Flint Health Coalition's FHEO Program and its local partners are working toward a goal of training 250 of the 400 dislocated workers in Genesee County over the three years of the grant. The second major component of the grant is referred to as "Regionalization" and is led by the Prima Civitas Foundation (PCF), the lead contractor for the M-PaTH Project. In the M-PaTH Project's second and third years (July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011), M-PaTH partners, led by PCF, will reach beyond Genesee County and into other parts of the Mid-Michigan region to train an additional 150 dislocated workers for healthcare careers, utilizing best practices from the modeled FHEO program. In mid-September, 2009, PCF announced the availability of \$340,000 for the training of dislocated workers in the Mid-Michigan region. For more information on this exciting regionalization effort, please visit PCF on the web at <http://www.primacivitas.org>.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE GREATER FLINT HEALTH COALITION

Thanks go out to those of you who have been reading the "InTouch" Newsletter throughout 2009. Best wishes to you and yours for a happy and safe holiday season. We're looking forward to another great year in 2010!

DIABETES GROUP VISIT PROJECT WORKING TO "CHANGE THE GAME" REGARDING TREATMENT OF DIABETES IN GENESSEE COUNTY

The concept is simple – improve treatment and outcomes of a major chronic disease affecting the community, increase patient satisfaction, increase physician reimbursement, and decrease physician burden. While this may be a daunting task for some, the GFHC's Diabetes Group Visit Project Workgroup has eagerly met the challenge.

Diabetes group visits represent a simple opportunity in the clinical field to improve patient care along with both patient and physician satisfaction. These group visits allow physicians to hold shared medical appointments with 7-10 diabetic patients as opposed to meeting with each patient individually. The visits, which last about 2 hours, allow patients extended time with their physician while also providing a forum to share "best practices" with fellow diabetic patients.

The GFHC's Diabetes Group Visit Project Workgroup has devoted its time to engaging physicians in the implementation of diabetes group visits. To assist with group visit implementation, a Diabetes Group Visit Replication Manual has been developed by the Coalition with the assistance of its Diabetes Group Visit Project Workgroup, including Chair Paul Dake, M.D., who has been performing diabetes group visits at McLaren Regional Medical Center since 2007. The Replication Manual is a very comprehensive tool for physicians and practices which clearly outlines the necessary steps and activities a physician must undertake in order to implement diabetes group visits. The 110 page Replication Manual provides information on group visit meeting structure, tools for startup, documentation tools, confidentiality and HIPAA compliance, billing and reimbursement, physician and patient satisfaction, and much more. The Replication Manual is available on the GFHC website, www.gfhc.org, or

through the GFHC; it is free to Genesee County clinicians and available at cost to out of county clinicians. Please call (810) 232-2228 to obtain a copy.

In addition to the completion of the Replication Manual, the Workgroup has also hosted two Physician Education Events to engage physicians in the concept and promote the implementation of diabetes group visits in Genesee County. These events engaged over 30 clinicians who showed interest in both the concept and the implementation of diabetes group visits.

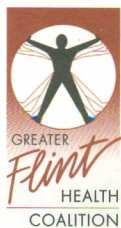
The Diabetes Group Visit Project of the GFHC is funded through a one year grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Flint. The GFHC will be pursuing additional funding as the project continues this important initiative addressing diabetes in our community.

A SMOKE FREE STATE FINALLY FULFILLS THE VISION OF "SMOKE-FREE GENESSEE"

On December 10, 2009, the State of Michigan's Senate and House passed legislation to ban smoking in nearly all public places statewide, including restaurants and bars.

The legislation, which will go into effect on May 1, 2010, once signed by Governor Jennifer Granholm, achieves a long standing goal of the GFHC to make Genesee County a smoke-free county. In 1999 the GFHC Board of Directors approved a recommendation to make Genesee County a "smoke-free county" and in 2001 charged the Health Improvement Committee with focusing on anti-smoking issues. The Health Improvement Committee then addressed anti-smoking issues, eventually develop a proposal to the Ruth Mott Foundation for a "Smoke-free Genesee," which was unfortunately unfunded at the time.

As a long-standing activity of the GFHC and concern to the health of the community, the GFHC happily supports the "smoke-free" legislation and elatedly anticipates a healthier Genesee County and State of Michigan.



519 South Saginaw Street, Suite 306

Flint, Michigan 48502-1802

Web site: www.gfhc.org

Telephone: (810) 232-2228

Fax: (810) 232-3332

E-mail: gfhc@flint.org

