Welcome to the inaugural issue of the newsletter for the ASTHO-supported all-partners collaborative working to integrate primary care and public health to improve population health! We look forward to highlighting the work of each of the partner organizations and stories of success. Please submit your recommendations for newsletter content areas of focus and any other ideas or feedback to Albert Terrillion, ASTHO senior director of family and community health. Look for the next edition the week of July 8.

Quick Links

IN THIS ISSUE

Partner Highlight: American College of Physicians

Inaugural Issue

SUCCESS STORY

New Hampshire QuitWorks Program: Linking Providers and Tobacco Quitline Services

In 2010, the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) collaborated with a community health center network and other providers to pilot an evidence-based tobacco treatment system through a shared electronic medical records (EMR) system. The project was funded through a NH DHHS grant. The pilot’s results demonstrated that QuitWorks-NH, New Hampshire’s provider-centric tobacco treatment services program, could successfully be integrated with EMRs to link providers and tobacco quitline services. Referrals to quitlines went from no referrals to 9 percent, and patient records documented that healthcare provider use of intervention methods “ASK” and “ASSIST” were documented at 91 percent (baseline 77 percent) and 71 percent (baseline 30 percent) respectively. This project serves as a model for future efforts to integrate tobacco treatment systems into community health centers.

PRIME RESOURCE

In March 2012, the IOM released its report Primary Care and Public Health: Exploring Integration to Improve Population Health. To build upon this report, ASTHO led a joint meeting with the IOM and other key partners under the leadership of the United Health Group. This meeting led to the creation of a strategic map depicting the key elements necessary to strengthen the integration of primary care and public health. This map provides a framework for supporting public health and primary care integration moving forward.

INTEGRATION RESOURCES

In Consumer-Directed Health Plans, A Majority of Patients Were Unaware of Free or Low-Cost Preventive Care.

A survey of individuals with consumer-directed health plans found that the majority of patients did not understand the details of preventive care cost-sharing exemptions, leading to the underutilization of preventive services. These findings suggest the need for special efforts to educate consumers about access to free and low-cost preventive care options.

INTEGRATION RESOURCES

Linkages Between Clinical Practices and Community Organizations for Prevention: A Literature Review and Environmental Scan.

This overview of 49 interventions linking primary care and community organizations for the delivery of preventive services suggests that while such interventions increase the delivery of preventive services, the evidence for their effectiveness remains limited. Findings provide recommendations to researchers and organizations that fund research, and call for a framework and metrics to study linkage interventions.

INTEGRATION RESOURCES

ABOUT ASTHO

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials is the national nonprofit association representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia. ASTHO members, the chief health officials of these jurisdictions, are dedicated to formulating and influencing sound public health policy and to assuring excellence in state-based public health practice.