Allentown, Pennsylvania Partnership Increases Access to Healthcare Services

This takes place in Allentown, an urban city in Pennsylvania.

**Partners Involved:** The Pennsylvania Department of Health, Allentown Health Bureau, Saint Luke’s Hospital

**Description of the Integration:** This project was started as a chance to change outcomes for growing Latino population in the Allentown area. That population was shown to have low health outcomes and poor access to care. Additionally, there was a risk of hospital losing beds or closing and lowered services in the area. The response included the DOH providing data, assessment tools, and cross-cultural training toward coordination with hospitals, and working with the Allentown Health Bureau to establish a wellness visit program, access to healthy foods (a food market set up across the street from a hospital), and comprehensive care coordination. There was an increase in more mobile healthcare services, including efforts to improve workforce outreach (training).

- **Resources Required:** Private Funding from the Hospital.
- **Results:** Health outcomes - weight, BMI.
- **Key Elements for Success:** Several parts of the health system worked together. The hospital provided services and some funding, but was able to work with public health to get information on area populations. Cultural competence and public health training allowed for both treatment and prevention to work together.

- **Lessons Learned:**

**Movement on the Integration Scale:** Start: mutual awareness; Finish: partnership; Desired: partnership

**Website Links:**

**Contact Information:**
Tomas Aguilar
Director, Bureau of Health Promotion and Risk Reduction
The Pennsylvania Department of Health
625 Forster St.; Room 1000, Health & Welfare Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
Phone: 717-787-6214, Email: taguilar@pa.gov