Rhode Island State Team

Primary Care Physicians: Engagement in Prevention
a state health official – public health institute led effort advancing evidence-based health policy

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| To develop a strategic plan to uphold a seatbelt law preventing motor vehicle injuries and to increase physical activity in schools by engaging and involving primary care physicians (PCPs) in evidence-based strategies. | 1) Team participated in ASTHO/NNPHI Community Guide (CG) Training & Strategy Workshop  
2) Assessed physician endorsement of excellent state standards for physical education in grades k-12 and removal of the sunset clause in current statutes.  
3) Identified next steps to engage partners  
4) Organized a forum “Healthy Kids Learn Better” at the YMCA to promote the CG to the audience  
5) Engaged two student interns to develop two handbooks: 1) handbook to raise awareness with PCPs on the new primary seatbelt use law and the Sunset Clause which jeopardizes its success  
2) handbook to encourage support from PCPs for increased physical activity among school children  
6) Presented handbooks to Brown MPH students  
7) Developed a two page handout for physician meetings and shared at the RI Academy of Family Practice Meeting in June | • Increased attention in using the CG. Found it was a valuable resource and will be including for fourth year medical students  
• The Department of Health was able to expand its relationships with PCPs around health policy and strengthen community partnerships.  
• Increased attention to the two important health policy issues; positioned partners to actively participate in the ongoing policy debate |

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<th>State Team Members</th>
<th>Resources Developed</th>
<th>Lessons Learned</th>
<th>Future Actions</th>
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| **RI Public Health Institute (RIPHI):** Patricia A. Nolan, Executive Director  
**RI Department of Health:** Michael Fine, Director, Jan Shedd, Community, Family Health & Equity, Eliza Lawson, Initiative for a Healthy Weight, Beatriz Perez, Safe Rhode Island  
**RI Department of Transportation:** Daniel DiBiasio, Office of Highway Safety  
**RI Office of the Attorney General:** Jay Sullivan, Assistant Attorney General  
**Secondary Education:** Midge Sabatini, THRIVE  
**YMCA of Greater Providence:** Cindy McDermott, Sr Vice President of Operations  
**RI Hospital Injury Prevention Center:** Michael Mello, Director | • Handbooks and briefs to engage PCPs to support seatbelt use and increased physical activity in schools  
• One poster and one oral presentation to Brown medical students on vehicle passenger protection and its evidence-base | • Student interns can assist with promoting the CG  
• Increasing attention to the CG can be done in a collateral effort  
• The CG brought evidence to the conversation in the policy debate | • Revise the materials for PCPs based on lessons learned; Make materials accessible on the RI Department of Health and RIPHI websites  
• Initiate physician office visits with ongoing HEALTH activities  
• Distribute materials at 3+ physician meetings in RI over the next year |

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<th><strong>Community Guide</strong></th>
<th><strong>Use of Total Funding ($10,000)</strong></th>
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| **Community Guide Intervention Selected:** Physical Activity: Enhanced School-Based Physical Education and Motor Vehicle-Related Injury Prevention: Use of Safety Belts through Laws Mandating Use  
WHY? To reduce childhood obesity and improve health, this intervention opportunity will increase physical education in schools; To increase vehicle occupant safety and reduce injuries  
HOW? The team used the Community Guide to justify the importance of supporting a policy for enhanced school-based physical education and seatbelt use by engaging with PCP partners | • Intern staff: 60%  
• Consulting staff: 20%  
• Other staff: 19%  
• Program Supplies (printed materials): 1% |

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