

Grant Outcomes Report

A New Vision for the Seneca Nation Health Department's Diabetes Management Program

The Problem:

The Seneca Nation Health Department estimated in 2007 that 15% of its patient population was diagnosed with diabetes. Over the past decade, the Seneca Nation Health Department maintained the Indian Health Service Diabetes Core Program and implemented the Indian Health Service Special Diabetes Prevention Initiative.

The Seneca Nation Health Department believes that together, these programs have been successful for the individuals who use them; however, the community at large was not utilizing the programs and community members were continuing to develop diabetes. Thus, the Seneca Nation Health Department sought NYSHealth funding to hire an outside evaluator to review its current programs, determine the programs' relative strengths and weaknesses, compare the programs to others within tribal and general U.S. communities, and provide direction on how to improve these programs and recommendations for further program development. Ultimately, the Seneca Nation Health Department wanted to create an innovative model diabetes program that would attract a broad range of community members. It planned to share the information gained through this project with other tribes in the United Southern and Eastern Tribes conference, and with the Indian Health Service.

Revisoning the Seneca Nation Health Department's Diabetes Management was funded as part of a set of grants under the New York State Health Foundation's (NYSHealth's) 2007 RFP *Setting the Standard: Advancing Best Practices in Diabetes Management*. *Setting the Standard's* goal was to move New York State's primary care system to adopt and spread best practices in disease management and establish them as the universal standard of care for patients with diabetes. Though this particular project did not meet the RFP's objective of advancing best practices, NYSHealth reviewers and staff felt there was

KEY INFORMATION:

GRANTEE

Seneca Nation Health Department

GRANT TITLE

Revisoning Seneca Nation Health Department's Diabetes Management

DATES

February 2008–May 2009

GRANT AMOUNT

\$17,815

FUNDING

2007 Setting the Standard:
Advancing Best Practices in Diabetes Management RFP

strong potential for the Seneca Nation to be more strategic in its diabetes programming and to inform other models of care directed toward Native American populations. Should interesting solutions emerge from the work, the Foundation was also prepared to consider follow-up proposals.

Grant Activities & Outcomes:

NYSHealth-funds supported the Seneca Nation Health Department's review of its current program to determine its strengths and weaknesses and present recommendations for improvements. Toward that end, the Seneca Nation Health Department hired a consultant, Brenda Broussard, with broad knowledge of tribal and U.S. diabetes programs. Ms. Broussard was given program reports and permission to contact Indian Health Service staff about the current programming. She surveyed relevant staff members and also interviewed both staff and community members to learn more about the diabetes programs' strengths and weaknesses.

The consultant presented her recommendations and options for implementation to the Seneca Nation Health Department in a final report.

The Future:

The Seneca Nation Health Department's Tribal Health Board and Administrative Team will continue to refer to the work plan and recommendations as it sets priorities for the program. The Department views the consultant's report as a highly detailed program evaluation instead of a tool for future development; however, the Department believes that the report has positively impacted its services.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ABOUT THE GRANTEE

The Seneca Nation Health Department is a nonprofit public health organization that maintains a Federal contract with the Indian Health Service. It was established in 1976 as a tribal program. The Seneca Nation Health Department provides health services through two ambulatory health centers to people in Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, and Niagara. The Seneca Nation Health Department programs provide primary and preventive care for chronic illnesses to the Seneca Nation of Indians. Between 2006 and 2007, 77,532 patients have been served by these facilities.

GRANTEE CONTACT

Karen Isaman, M.A.

Seneca Nation Health Department

Box 500

Salamanca, NY 14779

Phone: (716) 945-5894

E-mail: Karen.Isaman@senecahealth.org

Web address: www.senecahealth.org

NYSHEALTH CONTACT

Jacqueline Martinez

GRANT ID

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