

Florida

Building a Strong Referral Network

The Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (FBCCEDP), Putnam County Health Department (CHD's) *Believe in Miracles*, covers 11 rural counties in northeast Florida. The program developed an extensive network of providers that coordinates services through 10 county health departments, eight federally funded health centers, two hospitals, and 10 mammography sites. An area-wide group comprised of medical providers, social workers, university staff, and Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and American Cancer Society staff started a monthly meeting to share information and resources and collaborate on grant projects. Additionally, Putnam CHD's *Believe in Miracles* partnered with hospitals and now has sponsored plan status in which their clients receive automatic charity eligibility if Medicaid treatment funds are not approved, opening another avenue for continuity of services.

The relationships Putnam CHD's *Believe in Miracles* staff developed within the healthcare community facilitated increased screening services and treatment that the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP) supports. The Putnam CHD's *Believe in Miracles* regional coordinator trained FBCCEDP regional coordinators on provider recruitment and relations. Regional coordinators used this knowledge to increase their program's effectiveness, and central office staff will use the information during new regional coordinator orientations.

Healthy Communities Program

Florida

Offering More Lunchtime Fruit and Vegetable Choices at Elementary Schools

Overweight and obesity among school students in Pinellas County, Florida, is an important public health issue. In the 2004-2005 school year, the Steps Program in Pinellas County began implementation of a salad program that offers convenient, nutritious prepackaged fruit and vegetable salads in school cafeterias. School administrators and cafeteria managers were educated about the benefits of eating fruits and vegetables, and the food service staff received recipes and training on how to prepare nutritious salads. At the beginning of each school year, local vegetable distributors set up a farmer's market display at area schools to let students touch and taste different fruits and vegetables. In addition, an innovative nutrition education program called *Teen Cuisine* was developed, through which older students partner with local chefs to create cooking shows for younger children. The shows, supported by the Steps Program, feature healthy recipes consistent with the food service department's Health Tips of the Month.

The program continues to grow and has achieved the following accomplishments to date:

- More than 3,750 students and staff members increased their intake of fruits and vegetables during the third year of the program.
- 84% of the elementary schools participate in the salad program and 90% of the students and staff members participate in the farmer's markets.
- In 2008, Pinellas County school officials reported that 19% of elementary school students were overweight according to body mass index measurements taken on students enrolled in physical education classes, a significant decrease of 8 percentage points since the same analysis in 2005, which reported 27%.
- The Pinellas County School District was ranked first in the nation by the 2007 Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine's School Lunch Report Card on elementary schools. The district was recognized with this top honor for its variety of activities that encourage the consumption of healthy foods and educate students about nutrition.
- The popularity of the salad program has led to its expansion to schools in other parts of the county.
- The school district adopted a policy to provide physical education 5 days a week for all elementary school students.

Florida

Improving Infant Death Scene Investigation in Florida/SUIDI: State uses CDC's Division of Reproductive Health Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Investigation Training Materials to Gather Better Information on Infant Deaths

Public Health Problem

In 2004, Florida documented the following health outcomes:

- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and other Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths (SUID) continued to be the leading cause of post neonatal infant mortality
- Cause of death diagnosis of SIDS is declining in Florida, while other SUID rates are increasing
- Infant death scene investigations are conducted inconsistently and guidelines vary between jurisdictions.

Program

SUIDI Training Academy Florida Team: Collaboration and Partnerships to Address Florida's Infant Deaths

Develop capacity in Florida to conduct local educational sessions for medico-legal professionals on how to complete thorough and consistent infant death scene investigations and find ways to report and disseminate useful information on infant deaths to community agencies working on prevention efforts.

- In Florida, the Florida Department of Health's Maternal-Child Health Epidemiologist and State SIDS Prevention Coordinator, local Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) teams and the Florida Child Death Review Team (CDRT) coordinated efforts to better serve Florida's communities and address infant deaths and prevention efforts.
- In September 2006, Florida sent a five member team to the CDC's Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Investigation (SUIDI) Training Academy to be trained as trainers in infant death scene investigation. The team included a Major with Manatee County Sheriff's Office and the chair of Florida's Child Abuse Review Team, a medical examiner from Fort Myers, a professor in pathology at University of Florida and an Assistant State Attorney from Ocala.
- Between 2007 and 2008, Florida's State Department of Health Maternal Child Health Epidemiologist and staff, keeping close contact with CDC DRH, created data files to examine and report Florida's infant deaths by cause of death, including SIDS and SUIDs, thus documenting any shifts in cause of death diagnosis and better understanding underlying causes of death, such as those related to sleep environment.
- Although Florida was not a pilot state for the SUID Case Registry, the state exemplified such commitment to the issue that the State SIDS Prevention Coordinator was invited to represent Florida at two information gathering sessions on Developing a Nationwide SUID Case Registry. The Chair of Florida's Child Death Review Team was also invited to the second session.

Implications

- Florida's medico-legal community, including first responders, EMS, law enforcement, death scene investigators and medical examiners, have begun to realize the importance

Safe Motherhood

Florida (continued)

- and significance of consistent and standardized methodologies for conducting infant death scene investigations and diagnosing the cause of infant death.
- Accurate and consistent cause-of-death determination and reporting enhances the ability to monitor state and national trends, ascertain risk factors, and design and evaluate programs to prevent these deaths.
 - Local community action teams, such as FIMR or CDR can use this expanded and consistent information to create prevention strategies and monitor prevention programs.

Successful Impact

- Since attending the SUIDI Training Academy, the Florida Team has gone on to train more than 1,000 additional people in over 30 different training sessions.
- In 2008, the Florida Police Chief Association adopted a resolution in support of doll reenactment and the use of the SUIDI Reporting Form.
- The Florida Department of Health's SIDS Prevention Coordinator attended two information gathering sessions on Developing a Nationwide SUIDI Case Registry in 2008.