

CDC/OSH and TTAC Tobacco-Related Disparities Call Notes
January 29, 2009

Objectives

- Discuss OSH updates
- Describe role of the Senior Advisor to Health Disparities
- Review results from an assessment of the CDC tobacco-related disparities trainings
- Discuss mission of the National Latino Tobacco Control Network

Welcome & Introduction of Speakers - Debra Morris, TTAC

OSH Update - Brick Lancaster, Branch Chief, Program Services Branch, OSH

OSH has a commitment to continue addressing tobacco-related disparities. The 2009 National Conference on Tobacco or Health will include workshops on disparities. CDC is currently planning for the “what ifs” with the SCHIP legislation, FDA legislation, and items in the stimulus package. CDC does not know the specific amount of money in the stimulus package dedicated for tobacco control. CDC/OSH is currently in RFA review process. Results will be announced in early March (new grant period will begin at end of March).

Brick thanked the states of: Hawaii, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, Alabama, New Mexico, Iowa, Rhode Island, Kansas, and Maine for volunteering to help pilot the toolkit; and also acknowledged the excellent work that the TTAC staff is doing to complete the toolkit.

Introduction to Role as Senior Advisor for Health Disparities – Dr. Bridgette Garrett, Senior Advisor for Health Disparities, OSH

Bridgette is the new advisor for health disparities. Her role is to coordinate disparities activities across the office internally and also externally. Bridgette is currently in discussion with the American Legacy Foundation and NCI to plan a disparities summit.

Results from an assessment of the CDC Tobacco-Related Disparities Trainings - Coletta Reid, Coletta Reid and Associates

OSH created tobacco-related disparities trainings for states because states were having trouble addressing how to Identify and Eliminate Tobacco-related Disparities: National Tobacco Control Program Goal 4. OSH contracted with Coletta to conduct an assessment of the training and determine future needs. Twenty-seven states were interviewed. During the interviews, states provided recommendations on next steps.

As a result of the trainings, many states adjusted their infrastructure to better address disparities. Many hired disparities coordinators, implemented disparities plan, and changed infrastructure within the state to include disparities. States were able to increase community capacity by involving partners, gathering information and developing process to address disparities. Based on the interviews, everyone said that the strategic planning process worked!

Challenges

There was not enough funding for implementation of the strategic plan. It is important to get the backing of the State leadership. States need to see how other programs and money can be leveraged to address disparities work. Keeping the workgroup active is very important in adding funding. Active workgroups equal partners that support the efforts and can assist in leveraging elements of the strategic plan.

- Some states lacked a coordinator to guide the disparities work.
- Marketing the plan and integrating – states wanted more help to market the plan and integrate the plan into the overall state tobacco control and prevention plan.
- Struggle to keep workgroup engaged – when money disappeared and could not pay honoraria, mileage, etc. workgroup engagement was difficult. Important to engage good leaders. Implementation is a job for everyone working on tobacco in the state not just for those leading the disparities planning.
- Difficulty identifying appropriate interventions – States need clarity on what are the promising or best practices for disparities. Promising practices and best practices are not as well defined for disparities as it is for cessation or prevention.
- How do states evaluate the implementation plan?

TA Needs

- States need additional guidance on know what would work best with specific population groups.
- There is a need for a resource center that can serve as a repository for information. Participant comments: Information on tobacco-related disparities is located on the National Networks website at www.tobaccopreventionnetworks.org. States can submit information to be posted on the website. TTAC's website also houses information on tobacco-related disparities.
- States are struggling with implementation. States would like case studies and additional information on states that have been successful implementing their disparities plan.
- How to maintain focus on disparities.

- How to integrate disparities into other goal areas.
- How to implement the strategic plan.
- How to engage populations with disparities.
- Understanding what the industry is doing.
- How states can use alternative data collection strategies.

Recommendations for promoting disparities work within states

- Need assistance in understanding how to promote disparities within their state?
Certain individuals did not “buy in” to disparities work. What should happen in these situations? Recommend CDC enforce consequences if there is lack of progress in addressing disparities. Encourage CDC to recommend including sexual orientation survey question (state leadership conservative, have difficulties getting it accepted on the survey, CDC support could go a long way). Require states to hire a coordinator.
- Financial Support
Additional funding is needed to: implement the strategic plan, collect data, publications to report on state successes, and to help secure state funding for disparities work. When states have found other resources, how can states share that information?
- Knowledge Sharing Among States
States wanted to be able to communicate with each other in addition to conference calls. States want more venues to share information directly with each other. How can the CDC help states to work across state boundaries?

Comments

- National networks can really be a resource/avenue for addressing some of these recommendations. The networks can be an important resource to states. They can convene meetings, share data, etc. Many of the networks work with multiple states and can provide information about what is going on in other states.
- The bi-monthly TA calls will continue to highlight the networks and how they can work collaboratively with states.
- Need examples of case studies of states that have had success with implementation of the disparities plan.

Overview of the National Latino Tobacco Control Network (NLTCN) - Dr. Jeannette Noltenius, National Coordinator

The National Latino Tobacco Control Network started July 2008. The Network involves many national groups that work with Latinos and work with integration of tobacco control into chronic disease. The Network has multiple goals. There is a constant need to build and rebuild capacity (due to funding and other issues). The Network is creating a directory of tobacco control and community-based experts within different states. Other forms of communication include newsletters and building partnerships. The network can provide technical assistance (needs assessment and the links to implementation experts) and training (support community-based organizations and other opportunities).

Multiple ways the Network is working with states to provide TA/Training

- The NLTCN would like to create a Midwest multi-state approach to address integration in the Latino community. States interested: KY, IN, IL, OH. State to state support is important and working together on common issues is beneficial.
- Helping Washington State prepare for a tobacco summit with speakers, materials, demo kits, etc. Looking at what types of TA and training is needed after a summit.
- Assist Illinois in promoting the Illinois fax referral quitline. Working with the Primary Care Physicians from the Latino community perspective.
- Putting together, at request from North Carolina, a list of promising practices promote cessation to Latinos.

General Announcements

- Registration is now open for the NCTOH June 10-12.
www.tobaccocontrolconference.org/2009 . Early Bird Registration ends February 28. There will be a disparities/diversity track at the conference. Abstract notification will be the first weekend in February.
- The Poverty Network has changed its name to the Break Free Alliance.

Closing

- Please email ttac@sph.emory.edu with any additional questions.
- A call evaluation survey will be sent out by email after this call.
- The next call will be scheduled for March 5, 2009, 3:00pm (EDT).

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