

Contact

Joanne Eddy | 252.358.7833

joanne.eddy@ncmail.net



Northeastern North Carolina Partnership for Public Health



The Northeastern North Carolina Partnership for Public Health (NENCPPH) includes: Bertie, Beaufort, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Edgecombe, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Northampton, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, Warren and Washington Counties

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Vision of the Northeastern Partnership

Exploring an innovative regional approach maximizing effective programs that address the core public health needs of our region and sharing our experience across North Carolina

Mission of the Northeastern Partnership

The mission is to utilize flexible regional partnerships to provide the local public health core functions and essential services that ensure healthier communities by: (1) assessment of community health needs and health issues; (2) addressing those health needs and issues by developing policies and programs; (3) ensuring availability and accessibility of health services to the entire population.

1 Common Billing Initiative

Built on a consultant’s assessment of the billing practices of region’s 11 local health departments (covering 19 counties) the NENCPPH created an ongoing work group which has established a compendium of best practice policies and procedures to address billing and coding issues and to develop benchmarks on performance and alerts for further action. This process has helped maximize reimbursements and resulted in the creation of a best practice manual used as a resource tool and training vehicle across the region. This initiative continues through a regional work group of billing / office managers. Policies and procedures are being developed that

cover all steps of billing in the agency. Staff will continue to be trained in best billing practices and a monthly reporting package will be used as a management and performance improvement tool.

2 Health in Motion – Mobile Clinic and HIV Outreach

The Northeastern Partnership’s Mobile Clinic expands the partners’ capacity: 1) to provide health screening throughout the 19 county region, 2) to deliver Primary Medical HIV care at five regional care sites (Bertie, Beaufort, Dare

and Halifax in the NENCPPH and also to Lenoir in the region, 3) to provide HIV prevention education (to 476 individuals in 2007), 4) to provide case management and outreach services to the patients identified, and 5) to sponsor stakeholder meetings to coordinate service efforts. The partnership has recently received additional funding through grants to promote and sustain this initiative including additional case management, non-traditional testing outreach and jail health outreach.

3 Diabetes Sentinel Project

Through this project, the Northeastern Partnership has increased its capacity to prevent, diagnose and medically manage diabetes among African Americans, and seek to reduce health disparities in the 19 county region. The Diabetes Sentinel program is a collaboration of 30 African American churches and public health providers for diabetes prevention, outreach and policy change. Each participating congregation identifies adult and youth leaders for training as lay advisors (Sentinels), creates a committee to support this effort, establishes and implements policies that promote healthy lifestyles, and sponsors workshops on diabetes, nutrition, and exercise. The Northeastern Partnership is working toward developing church-housed Diabetes Prevention Centers in all counties in the region. The Partnership will facilitate replication of this model throughout the state.

4 Touch No Tobacco – Teen Tobacco Initiative

Through this initiative the Northeastern Partnership provided prevention education and other resources in 12 partnership counties to reduce teen tobacco use. Teens participating in this program develop outreach materials and create educational campaigns for local businesses and restaurants and parks and recreational facilities in their region, developing networks of stakeholders and reinforcement for their own awareness of the impact of tobacco use. In addition, to encourage implementation of the 100% Tobacco Free School policy, the partnership

has provided cessation resources, compliance assistance, and media campaigns throughout its region. This program is sponsored by the North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund.

5 Geographic Information System (GIS) Portal

The Northeastern Partnership is developing a Geographic Information System (GIS) portal through which spatially-related public health information can be brought together in a single site. In addition, the Partnership will develop a web-based GIS application that would enable the spatial tracking of local environmental health information to increase efficiencies and provide better service throughout the region.

6 Heart Disease and Stroke Initiative

The Northeastern Partnership provides regional leadership to encourage policy and environmental change at three levels throughout the region: 1) the healthcare system, 2) worksites, and 3) local communities. Program activities focus on prevention for heart disease and stroke including controlling blood pressure and cholesterol, recognizing signs and symptoms of heart attack and stroke, improving emergency response for heart attack and stroke, improving quality of care for cardiovascular disease, and eliminating disparities among population groups.

7 Business Insights

In conjunction with consultants, the Northeastern Partnership is currently locating business model assets that can be applied toward solving high priority public health problems and organizational challenges. These models draw on examples such as Lean and Six Sigma to map current business practices and develop teams that can look at tailoring new business practices in ways that address local public health department issues. Examples include billing practices, clinic efficiency, and client satisfaction with services at the local health department.