

“Building the Foundation to Impact Health Outcomes”

Health Industry Research Partners
Of DSU

Department of Health and Social
Services

Presentation October 13, 2009



Discussion Points

- Research
- DHSS
- Core Public Health Functions & Essential Services
- Current & Potential Areas of Exploration in DHSS
 - **DPH**
 - **DSAAPD**
 - **DSAMH**
 - **DDDS**
- Thoughts on Collaborations



Research

- Investigates health conditions, trends, behaviors and treatments with control groups and precise laboratory-style investigations that monitor subjects.
- Often emanates from:

Academia

Government (like the National Institute of Health, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Food & Drug Administration)

Private healthcare community



Division of Health & Social Services

DHSS

- **MISSION:** “To improve the quality of life for Delaware citizens by promoting health and well-being, fostering self-sufficiency, and protecting vulnerable populations.”
- 12 Divisions
- 4 Clinical Intervention Divisions

DPH

DSAAPD

DSAMH

DDDS



Core Public Health Functions and Essential Services



DPH MISSION

Protect and enhance the health of the people of Delaware by:

- Working together with others
- Addressing issues that affect the health of Delawareans
- Keeping track of the state's health
- Promoting positive lifestyles
- Responding to critical health issues and disasters;
- Promoting the availability of health services



DPH's Contributions to Research

- Data Sharing
- Data Collection
- Data Analysis
- Database Management
- Plan, Implement and Evaluate programs within DPH
- Liaison with DHSS Human Subjects Review Board



Current Quantification Efforts in DPH and Potential Areas of Exploration

CURRENT

- BRFSS
- Adult Tobacco Survey
- Healthy Women, Healthy Babies—data collection
- PRAMS—Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System

POTENTIAL

- Health Disparities Intervention
- Cancer
- Infant Mortality
- Domestic Violence
- Healthy Lifestyles (obesity/nutrition/exercise)



Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities

DSAAPD MISSION

- Improve or maintain the quality of life for Delawareans who are at least 18 years of age with physical disabilities or who are elderly.
- The Division is committed to the development and delivery of consumer-driven services which maximize independence through individual choice, enable individuals to continue living active and productive lives and protect those who may be vulnerable and at risk.



Current Quantification Efforts in DSAAPD and Potential Areas of Exploration

CURRENT

- Acquire demographic understanding of the aging population
- Data collection on clients in programs

POTENTIAL

- Persons at risk for “spending down”
- Persons at risk for elder abuse



Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health

DSAMH MISSION

Improve the quality of life for adults who have mental illness, alcoholism, drug addiction, or gambling addiction by promoting their health and well-being, fostering their self-sufficiency and protecting those who are at risk.



Current Quantification Efforts in DSAMH and Potential Areas of Exploration

CURRENT

- Prescribing practices of community physicians
- Acceptance Rate for Cancer screening
- Metabolic Syndrome
- Validation of “Intelligence Scale”

POTENTIAL

- Medical home models for mental health (MH) issues + physical issues
- Relationship of severe MH diagnosis and CVD, DM, CA, Obesity etc...
- Impact of smoking cessation on respiratory health of hospital clients



Division of Developmental Disabilities Services DDDS MISSION

Provide services and supports to individuals with mental retardation/developmental disabilities and their families which enable them to make informed choices that lead to an improved quality of life and meaningful participation in their communities.



Current Quantification Efforts in DDDS and Potential Areas of Exploration

CURRENT

- Risk factors for accidental medication errors
- Tracking applicants for services by age, original state of residence.

POTENTIAL

- Extended life care
- End of life care
- Housing accessibility
- Built Environment



Thoughts on Collaboration

“ . . . Research begins with a research topic of importance to the community, has the aim of combining knowledge with action and achieving social change to improve health outcomes and eliminate health disparities.”

-WK Kellogg Foundation Community Health Scholars Program



Interest in Exploration

- Do you have an interest in discussing your ideas with the Department of Health and Social Services?



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