www.wypca.org/Minority—Health

WY Minority Health Program

- Serves as a statewide resource clearinghouse, addressing health care access issues, disparities and cultural competence.
- Serves as a resource broker for translation services and other resources.
- The program is not a source of funds to pay for direct health services.

WY Minority Health Committee

- Serves as an advisory board in planning of new and continuation of existing programs to increase cultural sensitivity and competency in health care system.
- Identify health care gaps, barriers, and advocates for solutions to these problems.
- Serves as a resource and consultant regarding cultural competence training, educational materials, and available resources.

Collecting & Reporting Data
Lessons Learned

- The data must be culturally appropriate or it will not be accepted. It needs to be reviewed by minority representatives.
- Data for minority populations must be collected on an ongoing basis. (DOH is aware of this need and is working on it.)
- The percentages maybe small to justify ongoing data, the numbers represent 54,983 minority individuals in WY.
- This data is necessary for various grants and reporting.

Assessment of the Health Status of Minority Populations

- The first step toward correcting health disparities is to identify the leading cause of death in the minority groups…
- African Americans-heart disease
- American Indians-unintentional injury
- Hispanics-~~gonorrhea incidences~~ liver disease
- Asian/Pacific Islanders-low birth rate and tuberculosis
- …other health disparities are noted in the report.

Other troubling concerns for all minority groups include:

- High percentages of uninsured people.
- Higher than average poverty issues.
- There is a strong correlation between income, education levels, and health care access.
- SOLUTIONS: Economic development and wage levels need to improve, along with availability of employer-provided health insurance.

Recommendations

- Increase State, Regional and National Funds to the WY Minority Health Program to address cultural competency training and translation services. Cultural awareness information addressing the responsibility of the health care providers and consumers.

- Funds to continue updating the Needs Assessment data required for grant application and program reporting.

- Interagency sharing of data.

Recommendations-continued

- Targeted legislation allowing employers to invest in affordable health insurance pools to cover minority employees who work in service or farming industries.
- Information on cultural awareness and consumer responsibility distributed to health care providers, consumer groups, and community action groups.