



National Health Foundation e-News

Bridging Gaps in Healthcare

September/October 2010

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Greetings!

Welcome to the September/October 2010 edition of the National Health Foundation's (NHF) Newsletter! NHF's e-News & Information is a bi-monthly e-publication designed to keep interested parties up-to-date on current projects, special events, and activities taking place at NHF.

Los Angeles Recuperative Care Program Will Relaunch in October

HASC and NHF are pleased to announce the grand reopening of the LA Recuperative Care Program on Oct. 1, 2010. In partnership with Illumination Foundation (IF), a non-profit organization that addresses homelessness through integrated wrap-around services, the new LA program will mirror the successes of the Orange County Recuperative Care Program.

The LA Recuperative Care Program will feature:

- "Quick and easy" referral process with a single point of contact.
- One page electronic referral form.
- Four-hour notification to hospital from receipt of referral on patients' status of acceptance or denial into the program.
- Average length of stay of 10 days for most patients (additional days, if necessary, are approved by the hospital).
- Monthly electronic updates to hospitals.

Hospitals will be able to use the LA program on an as-needed basis and can use the program as often or as little as they need. A one-page letter of agreement will be sent to each hospital and should be signed and returned if the hospital is interested in participating.

An "Open House" for the grand reopening of the LA Recuperative Care Program will

take place on Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2010. Guided tours will be provided from 10:00am-3:00pm.

Highlights of the first six months of the Orange County Recuperative Care Program, in which 18 hospitals participated:

- 105 patient referrals by private hospitals, with 93 admissions into the program.
- 63 percent success rate connecting patients to transitional or permanent housing.
- 10-day average length of stay for patients.
- 765 total recuperative care days provided.

Since its inception in January 2010, the Orange County hospitals were asked to share their experience in the utilization of the program. The following are some testimonials:

"We at Mission Hospital have used the Recuperative Care Program with great success, and great outcomes for our patients. Again, thank you so very much. Mission Hospital, both the Mission and Laguna Beach Campus appreciate your hard work and efforts!"

**Patricia D. Atallah, R.N., Director of Care Management
Mission Hospital**

"You have been very responsive to our needs and we appreciate your collaboration."

"NHF as the single point of contact is invaluable for the referral process."

"Recuperative care is always our first thought with these patients."

"It exceeded our expectations!"

Case Managers and Discharge Planners

For more information on the LA Recuperative Care Program or to schedule an on-site training at your hospital, please contact the National Health Foundation.

Contact: Kelly Bruno
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Families Celebrate Graduation from the HELP Program at White Memorial Hospital



On a late Friday afternoon, six families excitedly greeted each other having not seen one another in several weeks. Many of the participants happily congratulated

each other for losing weight and getting healthy. These families first met over three months ago when they started the Healthy Eating Lifestyles Program (HELP) at White Memorial Medical Center. HELP is a six-week family focused childhood obesity prevention and management program. The goal of the program is to help families adopt healthy habits such as good nutrition and increased physical activity. Families come together each week to learn new lessons from the community health educators or promotoras teaching the classes, such as the importance of breakfast and tips for cooking healthy meals involving the whole family.

This Friday afternoon was the follow-up session and graduation ceremony, held 3-6 months after the end of the program to acknowledge the dedication of the families, review program material and re-evaluate participants to track their progress. While weight loss is not the focus of the program, it is a positive outcome. One of the promotoras enthusiastically tells the story of the parent that stopped drinking soda after the "soda and sugar" demonstration and lost 8 pounds in three weeks. At the end of today's graduation, each child participant received a medal for their participation and the families enjoyed a healthy meal.

White Memorial is implementing HELP as a member of the Hospitals Providing Prevention for Everyone or "H.O.P.E." for Health Campaign. Developed by National Health Foundation, the Hospital Association of Southern California and the Los Angeles Chronic Disease Management Consortium (CDMC), this campaign unites hospitals across Southern California in an effort to combat chronic disease in communities. Participating hospitals implement chronic disease prevention and management focused programs developed and piloted by CDMC hospitals including Good Samaritan Hospital, California Hospital and Huntington Hospital. HELP is the first program launched by the campaign. Successive programs will include a Type 2 Diabetes program and cardiovascular disease program. Together H.O.P.E. hospitals are working to build healthier communities by providing access to free preventative education and services.

For more information on the HOPE for Health Campaign or the HELP Program, please contact Mia Arias at Marrias@nhfca.org or (213) 538-0743.

NHF works with The HSC Foundation on Caregiver Issues

There is a group of caregivers who face unusual circumstances which create barriers to their participation in mainstream caregiver services and research. Some of those barriers include no access to telephone or Internet services; cultural traditions that inhibit them from self-identifying as a caregiver; and the demand of unexpected caregiving roles for populations such as wounded veterans. In order to better understand these overlooked caregivers, The HSC Foundation, NHF and the MayaTech Corporation turned to community-based service organizations that are not traditionally considered caregiving groups. Together, these partners hosted a series of listening sessions to get a better sense of these caregivers' unique issues and unmet needs, and highlight issues that are not necessarily present in the mainstream. The following report presents a summary of lessons learned during these listening sessions.

To access this report, please visit click here:

http://www.nhfca.org/reports/caregivers_brief.pdf

For more information on this report, please contact Danielle Cameron, Director of National Development at dcameron@nhfca.org.

The National Health Foundation's mission is to improve the health of the underserved by creating systemic solutions to gaps in healthcare access and delivery systems. To do this, NHF strives to address those issues that are most important in our community, such as: chronic disease prevention and management, uninsured families, and gaps in the healthcare delivery system.

In addressing barriers to healthcare access, the National Health Foundation provides services such as research, evaluation, facilitation, collaboration, training and education, and web-based technology support to hospitals, health plans, government agencies, nonprofits, community business organizations childcare providers, and other community service organizations.

Sincerely,

*Carlyne C. Ervin
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