

# Diabetes Supports for the Poor & Uninsured

Board of Health Presentation

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# Background

- Glucometers are used to test glucose (blood sugar) as often as clinicians advise.
- Insulin is sometimes titrated according to glucose readings.
- Diet may also be modified according to glucose readings.
- Starter glucometers & 10 glucometer strips are usually free from the manufacturer.
- Glucometer strips can cost over \$1.25 per strip.
- Some patients are encouraged to test 3-8 times per day.
- Medicaid more available to children - so adults were in a "gap".

# Group History

- Manufacturers eliminated free glucometer strip program for uninsured, low-income in 2010/2011.
- Providers identified an ongoing need and were concerned about lack of access to testing supplies.
- Partners include: Bryan Health, Clinic with a Heart, Health 360, Kohll's Pharmacy, Lancaster County Medical Society, Lincoln ED Connections, Lincoln Fire & Rescue, LLCHD, NE Urban Indian Health Center, People's Health Center & St. Elizabeth's Regional Medical Center.

# Goal

- Connect uninsured, low-income adults with diabetes to a medical home, while supplying them with the means to manage their diabetes effectively.
- Meant to be short term program.
- If the patient is ineligible for insurance, they are connected to an FQHC where they have access to diabetes medications via 340B.

# Community Health Endowment

- Group purchasing reduced the price of a vial of glucometer strips from \$69/vial to \$7/vial.
- Kohll's Pharmacy labels, provides teaching & free deliver for \$3/vial.
- Distribution of free glucometer strips for adults with diabetes who are uninsured & = or less than 100% FPL.
- Patient pays \$10 per 50 count vial of strips if uninsured and > 100% FPL but no = < 300% FPL.
- Purchase a limited amount of medications for diabetes for 3 months (e.g. insulin, Metformin, anti-HTN).

# Glucometer Strip Distribution

- From March 2012 - December 2015
  - 764 unique people served
  - 5,937 vials of glucometer strips distributed
- Total grant award from CHE March 2012 - December 2015
  - \$70,000
- Retail Cost = \$409,653
- CHE Cost = \$59,370 (14% of retail cost)
- Savings = \$350,283

# 911 Calls With Case Management

- Had funding for 1 year of a full time diabetes case manager (2013-2014).
- 67 unique people received case management.
- Two (2) of the 67 called 911 for diabetes related concerns (2.9%).
- Compared to 46 of 547 who received glucometer strips in the same time period who called 911 for diabetes related concerns (8.4%).

# Diabetes Specialty Clinic

- Once a month at Clinic with a Heart.
- Utilizes volunteers & donated funds for diabetes supplies.
- APRNs, Certified Diabetes Educators, Pharmacists, & Public Health Nurse - all in one visit.
- Goal is to stabilize the patient in no more than 3 visits while medical home is accessed.
- All patients receive free glucometer, glucometer strips, diabetes medications, lab work, & diabetes education.

# Diabetes Specialty Clinic Outcomes

- Studied by Creighton School of Pharmacy: June 2014 – November 2015.
- Average age = 50.
- 58% were women.
- 53% were non-white/non-Latino.
- 89% had type 2 diabetes.
- Reductions in Hemoglobin A1c, systolic blood pressure & diastolic blood pressure were statistically significant.
- 75% of people served established a medical home.

# What's Next?

- Case management works for the highest need population - need funding.
- Would like to study impact of successful management of diabetes on unnecessary 911 calls - including cost savings.
- There is a need in the community for stabilization while waiting to establish with a medical home.
- Continued need for glucometers, glucometer strips & access to diabetes medications - short-term.