5th Annual Substance Abuse Prevention Conference
Strengthening Our Community:
Creating Healthy Solutions

Conference Track Descriptions

Community Connectedness

The relationships between people and levels of community engagement have been shown to influence community health and safety. Strong social networks and connections correlate with significant decreases in rates of drug abuse, suicide, and homicide as well as substantial improvements in physical and mental health, academic achievement, and local economic development.

This track will demonstrate how communities have better health outcomes when their members have increased levels of collaboration. These sessions will feature…

- Communities or organizations that have worked together to establish policies that positively influence behavior, health, or social and economic conditions.
- Individuals and organizations that have successfully engaged in mutually beneficial partnerships with non-traditional partners.
- Initiatives that have successfully increased community engagement and care coordination to address a local issue.

Health Care Quality and Integration:

Behavioral Health services have historically been perceived, treated, and financed differently from other health services. As we learn more about the interconnectedness of behavioral and physical health, we understand the need to view substance use disorders and mental illness as we would any other health issue. To do this, community perceptions, systems financing, and organizational policies and practices must be tailored to accommodate this growing body of research and general understanding.

This track will emphasize the positive results of integrating behavioral health services and health care settings along the continum of care. These sessions will feature…

- Organizations that are integrating clinical services
- Integrated health records
- Emergency department strategies
- E-counseling strategies

Workplace Health and Organizational Learning

Americans spend close to half of their waking hours at work; the workplace can be an influential environment for encouraging behaviors that reduce costly chronic diseases. As the nation continues to prioritize the improvement of the health care system and the economy, our workforce must develop core structures, policies, and organizational competencies that advance health and positively impact the bottom line.

This track will demonstrate the nexus of health, businesses policy, and leadership in the workplace by providing workshops that will feature…

- The financial benefits of addressing wellness in the work place
- Recruitment and retention strategies that are centered on health or support cultural competency
- Employee assistance programming
- Workforce development programs and activities focused on healthcare reform