Introduction

Healthy People 2020 has a goal to promote the health and well-being of people with disabilities.

Objective DH-3 aims to “Increase the proportion of U.S. master of public health (M.P.H.) programs that offer graduate-level courses in disability and health.”

Healthy Alaskans 2020 includes an objective to reduce the number of Alaskans without access to high quality affordable health care.

Informative literature and key sources

- Health and Disability Programs, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Alaska Health and Disability Program http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/wcfh/pages/disability/
- American Association on Health and Disability
- Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs

Priority issues and content areas

- Disability issues in the context of existing programs and policies
- Social determinants of health
- Population health data
- Issues across the lifespan from an Alaskan perspective
- Integration with an interdisciplinary lens of public health principles to enhance health promotion activities in the community

Community response to workforce development course

- Within 72 hours of the announcement’s distribution, there were > 25 calls/emails from diverse types of agencies and locations
- One agency requested a workshop specifically for their own staff
- 41 registrations from 11 locations (see map)
- Face-to-face site in Anchorage (15 participants)
- Video conference sites in Fairbanks and Ketchikan (6 participants)

Course evaluations indicated the following:

- Knowledge increase related to disability and public health issues (responses were all “strongly agree” or “agree”)
- Satisfaction with the training (responses were all “strongly agree” or “agree”)
- Informal consensus on need for the workshop for colleagues working in the disability field

Future directions

- Explore expanding the content and length of the course
- Consider specific content focus (i.e., programs, systems, services or policies)
- Evaluate the course based on integration into practice

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