



“The Integrator”: Who Convenes the Stakeholders to Improve Health?

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Name of project or collaborative

Campaign to Make Delaware’s Children the Healthiest in the Nation

Geography

Delaware

Brief description

Since 2006, Nemours has worked with multi-sector partners to address childhood overweight and obesity in Delaware. The target population is all children ages 2-17 in Delaware. Examples of key partners have included: the Governor’s Office, Cabinet secretaries and other government officials, primary care pediatric providers, child care centers, schools and superintendents, and other community-based organizations and coalitions. Nemours has employed systems-level and practice interventions, such as working with state-level partners to promote healthy eating and physical activity through child care licensing, as well as creating learning collaboratives with schools, child care, and primary care to bring together providers in peer-to-peer learning networks to facilitate policy and practice change.

Relevance of project to this breakout session

Nemours’ obesity prevention work provides an example of a health system serving in the role of an integrator at a state and local level – convening multi-sector partners in support of a shared goal; advancing practice and systems changes; collecting and analyzing data to assess progress; developing tools to disseminate knowledge; and providing training and technical assistance to practitioners who work with children in order to promote sustainable systems change. Nemours also has been acting as an integrator at the national level to spread and scale what works through an award from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), focused on implementing early care and education (ECE) learning collaboratives in multiple states.

Results/outcomes

Based on statewide representative household surveys of parents, preliminary results show a flattening of the overweight and obesity curve for DE children ages 2-17 between 2006 and 2008. A follow-up survey in 2011 found that forty percent of DE children, ages 2-17, were overweight or obese in 2011. Since the first sampling of the population in 2006, there have not been any statistically significant changes in percent of children who are overweight or obese. As mentioned above, Nemours has leveraged the lessons learned and expertise from the DE work on the national level. Nemours’ ECE collaboratives, which focus on promoting healthy eating and physical activity in child care, are now present in 9 states across the country.

Funding

Nemours funds Delaware program-related activities out of the operating budget for Nemours Health and Prevention Services. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has provided enhanced funding for Delaware evaluation and data collection. Federal funding sources have included: the U.S. Department of Education’s Carolyn M. White Physical Education Program; a U.S. Department of Agriculture Team Nutrition Grant; a Community Transformation Grant – Small Communities Initiative award, and the National Early Care and Education Learning Collaboratives award from the CDC. The General Mills Foundation and the American Heart Association are also

partners. There have also been a limited number of other grants, including a recently awarded Partnerships to Improve Community Health grant from the CDC.

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