How Health Reform Can Help Reduce Disparities and the Challenges of STDs & HIV/AIDS

By Ann Kelly [1]
Thursday, December 23, 2010 at 01:07 PM

Health Reform and Reducing Disparities: Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV/AIDS

December 3, 2010, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Presentation by Kevin Cranston, Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health

State legislators, primarily from CSG’s Eastern Regional Conference states, attended a 4-hour session to learn more about health reform and state policies can reduce health disparities related to sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV/AIDS.

Participants heard from national experts about how federal and state health reforms can help reduce health disparities. Speakers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health, and medical and community services providers gave background information on the epidemic of STDs/HIV and how state legislators can tackle these issues in their states and communities. Legislators from Utah and Rhode Island presented how they were able to gain passage of bills in their states to broaden prevention efforts and establish expedited partner therapy for STDs, and other legislators contributed their similar experiences from other states. Finally, legislators considered a list of the policy initiatives discussed, and indicated those they expect to pursue during the 2011-2012 legislative sessions.

The meeting session was made possible through funding from the CDC’s HIV prevention program [2] and STD prevention program [3] and was presented in cooperation with the Partnership for Prevention [4]'s National Chlamydia Coalition.

---

Kevin Cranston, MDiv, Director, Bureau of Infectious Diseases, Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health, Boston, Mass.

Mr. Cranston has worked extensively with HIV/AIDS prevention programs in both the Departments of Public Health and the Department of Education in Massachusetts. Prior to state government, he was
an adolescent HIV prevention specialist working with children and youth in Boston. Mr. Cranston was a visiting lecturer for four years at the Harvard Divinity School, and is the past Chair of the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD). He also serves as a technical assistant through NASTAD’s Global Program to the AIDS control programs of Nigeria, Brazil, and South Africa.

contact: kevin.cranston@state.ma.us [5]

Tags:

Source URL:

Links
[5] mailto:kevin.cranston@state.ma.us