

# *The* Connector



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
CHRONIC DISEASE DIRECTORS  
Promoting Health. Preventing Disease.

Inspiring strategic direction for diabetes prevention & control

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## NACDD Honors Dr. Ann Albright

In honor of Dr. Ann Albright's upcoming retirement, the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) invited her to a virtual fireside chat to discuss her remarkable career. Dr. Albright has been the Director of the Division of Diabetes Translation at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (DDT/CDC) for 14 years and has been a champion for people with and at risk for diabetes for nearly 40 years. Throughout her career, she has worked to advance diabetes science as well as lead and advise on state, national, and international diabetes programs. Dr. Albright is retiring in December.



*"NACDD has a longstanding partnership with DDT/CDC. We have worked collaboratively with CDC on diabetes initiatives since the late 90's. It has been an honor to work under the leadership of Dr. Albright and her dedicated staff to make a significant difference in the prevention of diabetes and its complications. We wish her well in her retirement, and we won't be surprised to see her advocating for people with and at risk for diabetes in the years to come." -- Marti Macchi, MEd, MPH, Senior Director of Programs*

Notable among her many achievements is her leadership in the development and implementation of the National Diabetes Prevention Program (National DPP), which has enrolled nearly 500,000 participants nationwide. She and her team also worked closely with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to establish coverage for eligible beneficiaries through the Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program (MDPP), representing a landmark for public health efforts in the U.S.

### [Listen](#)

This 30-minute fireside chat with Dr. Albright includes her thoughts on leadership, keeping a focus on diabetes in difficult times, building a national lifestyle distribution system, and insights about the public health emergency of 2020 and its impact on the diabetes community.

### [Read](#)

This 4-page article offers highlights from NACDD's virtual fireside chat with Dr. Albright. Also included are extra images provided by CDC and Dr. Albright.

# November is National Diabetes Awareness Month

NACDD extends our gratitude to State Health Departments for continuing to keep their diabetes prevention and management work moving forward this year. We have seen and heard first-hand how the public health emergency of 2020 has impacted your daily work and programs. Your double-duty efforts in these challenging times do not go unnoticed and are immensely respected and valued. Explore the hashtags [#DiabetesAwarenessMonth](#), [#AmericanDiabetesMonth](#), and [#NationalDiabetesMonth](#) on social media to learn about how organizations and programs, just like yours, are also pushing forward. Thank you for all you do.

## New Report Shares State and Collective Success

NACDD is proud to support states in their efforts to scale and expand the National DPP. Since 2012, 43 states have held State Engagement Meetings (StEM Meetings) and engaged partners in collective actions to increase enrollment in the National DPP lifestyle change program. Congratulations to the State Health Departments and their partners on all of their hard work and successes!

NACDD's new report, [Collective Impact in Action](#), provides a look at the longstanding impact of the NACDD/CDC State Engagement Model (StEM) on scaling and sustaining the National DPP across the states. The report also features an in-depth look at the important work of 14 states that have participated in the Model and offers a rich sample of the breadth of National DPP work being done.

Do you have an innovative success story that you would like to share with your peers across the U.S.? Submit your success story on NACDD's [website](#), or contact [Tamara Demko](#) if you need assistance.

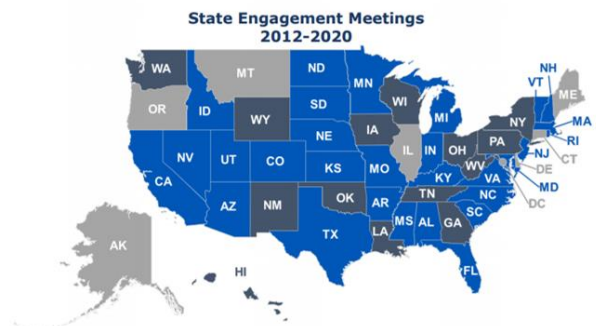
### THE IMPACT\*

**3.08 million** COVERAGE  
state employees have coverage

**47k** AWARENESS  
healthcare providers, community health workers & community members educated

**307** AVAILABILITY  
CDC-recognized programs added in underserved areas

**2,525** PARTNERS  
partners engaged



Blue – StEM Meeting completed between 2012-2020, including the dark blue states  
Dark Blue – States highlighted in this update

\* These data points were compiled from states who hosted a StEM Meeting and participated in 2018 and 2019 outcomes surveys, a partnership survey, and state discussions.

**WYOMING**  
Quickly Advancing Coverage

State employee coverage and Medicaid-covered benefit pilot for registered dietitians achieved 8 months after StEM Meeting

**GEORGIA**  
Awareness and Screening, Testing, Referral Gains Through Strong Partnerships

50 partners, including the American Medical Association, which now provides National DPP training to 8 hospitals

**PENNSYLVANIA**  
Increasing National DPP Lifestyle Change Program Availability

220 lifestyle coaches trained; 23 sites, and 54 lifestyle change programs added; 89 organizations obtained recognition by CDC's Diabetes Prevention and Recognition Program

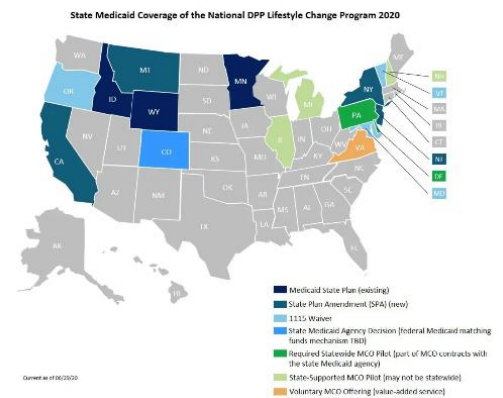
## Coverage Toolkit Participating Payers Page Gets Even Better!

The [Participating Payers](#) page is the most visited page on the National DPP [Coverage Toolkit](#). The page provides information to assist states, payers, and organizations in their efforts to expand coverage and utilization of the National DPP lifestyle change program. In July 2020, NACDD and Leavitt Partners revamped the Participating Payers page to better exhibit the health plans, employers, and states that cover the National DPP lifestyle change program. The page now includes interactive tables and maps. Use the tables to access specific information about state Medicaid agencies and private and public employers who cover the National DPP lifestyle change program.

Since its launch in June 2017, the National DPP Coverage Toolkit has been visited by more than 36,000 unique users. NACDD, in collaboration with DDT/CDC and Leavitt Partners, continues to expand and regularly update content and resources available on the site, so check back often for updates.

Help us keep the Participating Payers page current by adding payers who are not yet listed on the Toolkit. To add a payer, scroll to the bottom of the [Participating Payers](#) page and complete the submission form. Forms will be reviewed for website placement.

In addition to the interactive tables, the Participating Payers page also includes an expanded [Medicaid coverage map](#). The new map represents the ways in which states are providing Medicaid coverage, including state Medicaid agency decision and managed care pilots (required, state-supported, and voluntary). Using this expanded set of coverage definitions, 17 states have achieved varying levels of Medicaid coverage of the National DPP lifestyle change program.

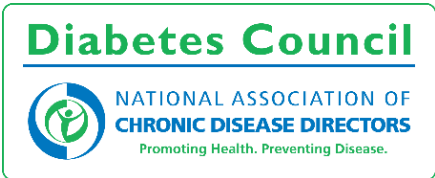


## NACDD Addresses Systems Challenges in Medicaid

Through support from the CDC, NACDD is excited to announce a third year of providing intensive technical assistance and funding to grantee states which this year include Delaware, Minnesota, New York, and Vermont. The NACDD team builds on learnings gleaned from the [2016 - 2019 Medicaid Demonstration Project](#) with Maryland and Oregon, and three years of working directly with additional states to establish and operationalize Medicaid coverage of the National DPP lifestyle change program as part of CDC's 6|18 Initiative. If you would like more information on the intensive technical assistance and 6|18 workstreams, contact [Jen Barnhart](#). For more information on Medicaid coverage of the National DPP, visit the [Case for Coverage](#) page on the National DPP Coverage Toolkit.

## Guidance on Self-Reported Weight Measurement for MDPP

During the public health emergency of 2020, CMS will exercise its enforcement discretion to allow MDPP suppliers to be reimbursed for claims submitted with weight measurements obtained for MDPP beneficiaries through the following methods: (1) in-person, when the weight measurement can be obtained safely and in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations; (2) via digital technology, such as scales that transmit weights securely via wireless or cellular transmission (commonly referred to as “Bluetooth™ enabled”); or (3) self-reported weight measurements from a participant’s own at-home digital scale. Self-reported weights must be either observed being taken by the MDPP supplier via live, synchronous online video technology such as video chatting or video conferencing, or submitted via video. The video must clearly document the weight of the MDPP beneficiary as it appears on their digital scale on the date associated with the billable MDPP session.



The following stories highlight the work of NACDD [Diabetes Council](#) Members and the Diabetes Council Leadership Group.

## Welcome New Diabetes Council Leaders!



*Congratulations to the Leadership Group! From left to right: Brittany Ly, Becky DiOrio, Sonja Tysk, Tari O'Connor, Rebecca O'Reilly, Alexandro Pow Sang, Liz Curry, Pam Geis, Edward Clark, II, Kristie Hicks, Joyce Hoth, Kat Ortiz, and Tamika Rowe-Maloney.*

In July, the Diabetes Council Leadership Group warmly welcomed seven new and returning Leaders who were elected or appointed to their positions. Collectively, the Leaders bring a wealth of expertise in many areas, including clinical, epidemiology, evaluation, health education, health and racial equity, communications, and marketing.

<b>Rebecca O'Reilly</b>	Vermont	Chair Elect
<b>Pam Geis</b>	Wisconsin	Mentoring Workgroup Co-Chair
<b>Tamika Rowe-Maloney</b>	Georgia	Liaison to the NACDD Cardiovascular Health Advisory Council
<b>Kathryn Ortiz</b>	Indiana	Liaison for Outreach and Member Engagement
<b>Liz Curry*</b>	Ohio	Professional Development Workgroup Co-Chair
<b>Kristie Hicks*</b>	North Carolina	Mentoring Workgroup Co-Chair

The new Leaders are joined in their positions by returning Leaders:

<b>Brittany Ly</b>	Utah	Chair
<b>Becky DiOrio</b>	Colorado	Past Chair
<b>Alexandro Pow Sang</b>	Washington	Professional Development Workgroup Co-Chair
<b>Edward Clark, II</b>	Florida	Liaison to the Epidemiology and Evaluation Collaborative
<b>Sonja Tysk</b>	Montana	Liaison to the Health Equity Council
<b>Tari O'Connor</b>	Alaska	Liaison to the Board of Directors

The [Diabetes Council Leadership Group](#) serves as a collective voice for all State Health Departments. [Learn more](#) about the Diabetes Council and how you can get more involved. For more information, contact [NACDD.Diabetes@chronicdisease.org](mailto:NACDD.Diabetes@chronicdisease.org).

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## Diabetes Professionals Needed to Influence Future Leaders

Planning has begun for the 2021 Peg Adams Peer-to-Peer Program. The Program, which has been matching Learners and Guides for more than two decades, is named after the late Peg Adams from West Virginia who made it a practice to welcome new state staff and create a sense of community. The purpose of the Peer-to-Peer Program is to link new state staff (Learners) with experienced staff (Guides) working in diabetes so that they can talk through challenges, share successes, and grow their professional networks. Guides are now being recruited to serve in a one-year mentoring capacity. Take it from [Pam Geis, Co-Chair of the Diabetes Council Mentoring Workgroup](#), serving as a Guide can be extremely rewarding for your diabetes-related efforts and your own professional development goals. For more information or to sign up as a 2021 Guide, contact [April Reese](#).



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## Innovation Award Goes to Pam Geis of Wisconsin!

In September, NACDD announced this year's prestigious [Impact Awards](#). We are proud to congratulate Pam Geis who was recognized for outstanding work in chronic disease prevention and health promotion. Pam's work to bring the National DPP to Wisconsin's prison system was featured in her nomination.



Awardees are nominated and selected by their peers using a rubric that emphasizes impact in reducing the burden of chronic disease in states and territories.

"I am so honored to receive this award. I really enjoy the work I do and hope that it is reflected in my accomplishments. And, I couldn't do any of it without the amazing support from my coworkers and colleagues at NACDD and CDC," said Pam.

Thank you, Pam for your creativity, dedication, and leadership. Pam is a former Chair of the Diabetes Council Leadership Group and currently serves as the Mentoring Workgroup Co-Chair.

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## Diabetes Council Comings and Goings

### Welcome

**Michelle Osborne, MS, CHES**, joined the **Arkansas** diabetes team as the new National DPP Coordinator. Arkansas has made a lot of progress with their diabetes prevention efforts despite temporary assignments to handle the public health emergency.

Help keep NACDD's Diabetes Council membership current by sending changes in State Health Department diabetes staff to [Lanae Caulfield](#).

**Michael Ramey, Jr., MPH** recently joined the **Indiana** State Department of Health as the Diabetes Epidemiologist. Michael previously worked in the HIV/STD realm and has a strong public health background. Michael is eager to join the team and combat diabetes in the state of Indiana.

**Amanda Santos, MPH**, is the new diabetes lead at the **Nevada** Department of Health and Human Services. Her public health experience includes serving as a Community Health Worker Program Coordinator, working in breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer control programs, and as the HIV/AIDS Epidemiological Capacity Coordinator. She is looking forward to immersing herself in diabetes prevention and expanding her knowledge about diabetes.

## Farewell

**Carol Filer, MS, RD, LD**, is retiring from the **Texas** Department of State Health Services. She dedicated 18 of her 31 years of public service to diabetes prevention and management. In Carol's words, "NACDD has provided me many professional growth opportunities and I've learned so much from peers through NACDD community of practice groups, chronic disease academies, and leadership opportunities."

**Judith Gabriele, MPH**, has retired from the **New Mexico** Department of Health. In addition to the many years she served New Mexico, most recently as the Deputy Bureau Chief of the Population and Community Health Bureau, Judith also served as the Chair of the Diabetes Council Leadership Group and later as a Member of NACDD's Board of Directors. Thank you, Judith, for all you have given to your communities in New Mexico and your dedicated service at the national level.

**Oliver T. Jenkins, Jr., PhD, MS**, former Diabetes Council Leadership Group Liaison to the Diabetes Advocacy Alliance and NACDD Government Affairs Forum, recently resigned from his position as Chronic Disease Program Coordinator for the **Virginia** Department of Health. Oliver brought a diverse voice to the Diabetes Council Leadership Group aimed at impacting policy and systematic change among strategies to reduce the impact of diabetes nationally.

**Christopher Lucero, BCH, CHES**, manager of the diabetes program in **New Mexico**, has retired. Chris served as the Chair of the Diabetes Council Leadership Group and most recently as the Mentoring Workgroup Co-Chair. His professionalism, energy, and dedication to diabetes efforts in New Mexico and nationally is greatly appreciated.

**Glenn Studebaker, BA/BBA** has retired from the **Missouri** State Health Department after many of years of strong leadership that has recently been capped by obtaining Medicaid coverage of the National DPP.

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## Resources

### Opportunity for a Diabetes Public Health and Training Consultant

NACDD is seeking an independent consultant to serve on the Diabetes Technical Assistance and Support team as a Diabetes Public Health and Training Consultant. Develop/enhance training curricula, approaches, and methods for effective adult learning, peer-to-peer support, and develop tools that support each training activity. Lead the support for trainings and peer-to-peer engagement for National DPP State Quality Specialists. Read the full [announcement](#) to learn more.

### HALT Platform Supports State Health Departments and Partners

HALT is a National DPP platform – not a program provider – that allows in-person coaches the ability to offer the National DPP lifestyle change program virtually. It is a fully integrated, online delivery system complete with video curriculum, food-logging, messaging, dashboards, and apps. Currently, Arkansas, Iowa, Hawaii, Kansas, Nebraska, Maryland, and South Dakota (re-license) are moving forward with the HALT DPP platform. Wyoming and Utah currently are in the contracting process. Additionally, NACDD's 1705 subgrantees will have access to the platform (Florida, Pennsylvania, New York, and Arkansas). To learn more about this opportunity, contact [John Patton](#).

## Ad Council Campaign Now Available

NACDD will help you work with prediabetes partners including Screenvision, Outcome Health, and Health Media Network, to place diabetes prevention and informational ads about the National DPP from the Ad Council in healthcare provider offices. To learn more about this opportunity, contact [John Patton](#).

## New GIS Hallmarks Resource and GIS Training Opportunity

Using geographic information systems (GIS) can help states and partners make decisions, address health equity, tailor interventions, and more. In 2020, NACDD's Cardiovascular Health Council worked closely with Chronic Disease Directors from across the U.S., CDC, and Children's Environmental Health Initiative at the University of Notre Dame to finalize [GIS Hallmarks](#). Use these Hallmarks to build and support a GIS-savvy workforce, build GIS use into chronic disease prevention work, and build GIS-ready tools and resources. Learn more about NACDD's GIS resources on the [GIS webpage](#).

To further support GIS capacity building in State, Local, U.S. Territory, and Tribal Health Departments, NACDD is offering a short course about using the Rate Stabilizing Tool (RST). The RST short course will take place Jan. 6 through Feb. 5, 2021. **Applications to participate are due by Wed., Dec. 9, 2020.** Learn more about this opportunity, review eligibility details, and find the participation application online at <https://training2021.cehitraining.org/>.

## COVID-19 and Chronic Diseases

[CDC's guidance for CDC-recognized organizations](#)

[CMS's guidance for the Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program](#)

[NACDD's compilation of resources](#)

## Webinar Recordings

[DSMES, Telehealth, and the Public Health Emergency: Successes and Opportunities](#): July 30, 2020 - DP18-1815/1817 recipients working on diabetes self-management education and support (DSMES) strategies can listen to this webinar to learn about the temporary policy changes that CMS has made to allow delivery and reimbursement of DSMES services via telehealth. This webinar also showcases actions that states have taken during the public health emergency to enhance and continue offering DSMES.

[NACDD July 2020 General Member Webinar: The Role of Telehealth in Public Health](#): July 23, 2020 - National experts discuss how telehealth came about, how it has been used for years with certain populations, and how barriers such as reimbursement are being addressed. State experts share how telehealth is being used in healthcare systems and State Health Departments, from eICU care to remote patient monitoring and chronic disease prevention.

[Making Connections with State Oral Health, Cardiovascular Health, and Diabetes Programs](#): Nov. 12, 2020 - Using a 'fireside chat' format, leaders from the NACDD CVH and Diabetes Councils interviewed oral health program managers from five states to learn about the various approaches taken to develop collaboration models. Successes and challenges from the first two years of this five-year project also were shared.

**We welcome your contributions to  
The Connector!**

To submit story ideas for future issues of The Connector, email [Susan Lopez-Payan](#).

To read past issues of The Connector, visit the [NACDD Diabetes Library](#).



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