Ep 1: Overcoming Adversity in National DPP Programming
Featuring Tennessee Department of Health and Emory Centers for Public Health Training and Technical Assistance
Published September 2021
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ABOUT THIS EPISODE

Since Tennessee’s State Engagement Meeting in March of 2018, partners who are working on diabetes prevention efforts across the state have come up with unique approaches to tackling the not-so-unique challenge of sustaining long-term partnerships before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Lisa Kocak, BS, MA, Program Director at the Tennessee Department of Health and Mackenzie Leonard, MPH, CHES, at Emory University’s Diabetes Training and Technical Assistance Center join us to share how Tennessee leveraged an already existing regional structure to reenergize and organize their collective approach to diabetes prevention for Tennesseans.

“Priorities can change based on circumstances. As the circumstances change, just remember go with it, move with it, and keep your work moving forward.”

LEARN MORE

From Tennessee:
Tennessee Diabetes Action Report, February 2021
Tennessee Prediabetes Goodie Bag, June 2021

From NACDD:
NACDD Collective Impact in Action Report, November 2020

Right: Diabetes prevention billboard in East Tennessee, photo courtesy of the Tennessee Department of Health
ABOUT OUR GUESTS

Lisa Kocak, BS, MA -- lisa.kocak@tn.gov
Program Director, Tennessee Department of Health
Lisa holds a BS from State University of New York, College at Cortland and a MA from State University of New York, College at Binghamton. She started her career as a Certified Medical Assistant. She has worked at the local and state public health levels. Prior to working for the Tennessee Department of Health, she worked as a Public Health Educator and Public Information Officer at the Tioga County Health Department in New York and a Health Program Specialist at Metro Public Health Department in Nashville and is currently a Program Director for the Tennessee Department of Health. Lisa also teaches Medical Assisting courses at South College in Tennessee.

Mackenzie Leonard, MPH, CHES -- mackenzie.leonard@emory.edu
Community Engagement Coordinator, Emory Centers for Public Health Training and Technical Assistance
In her role as Community Engagement Coordinator, Mackenzie primarily facilitates coalition building and strategic action planning for chronic disease prevention by organizing webinars, developing educational resources, and providing project management support. Mackenzie is a Certified Health Education Specialist, holds a BA from the University of Iowa, and an MPH from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University. Mackenzie has a passion for bringing people together to engage in effective teamwork. Prior to this role, she served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Uganda. Mackenzie lives in Baltimore, where she loves getting outdoors, doing dance and yoga, and talking politics.

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This publication was supported by the Cooperative Agreement Number 6NU38OT000286-03 funded by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the author and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC or the Department of Health and Human Services. Social media icons made by Freepik from [www.flaticon.com](http://www.flaticon.com). Sound engineering provided by Borden Media, Inc., an Atlanta-based media company.

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