

The Connector

Inspiring strategic direction for diabetes prevention & control

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Diabetes Prevention Television Campaign Features Real-Life Stories

In partnership with the [National Association of Chronic Disease Directors](#) (NACDD), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and ABC/Disney released a new television campaign in October featuring real-life stories providing key insights on prediabetes, preventing type 2 diabetes, and living well with diabetes.



The campaign is designed to engage and motivate people with prediabetes to enroll in the National Diabetes Prevention Program (National DPP) lifestyle change program. Video participants share their progress on overcoming challenges, changing their habits, and celebrating successes. Each video concludes with a call to action to visit [Diabetes TV](#) to learn more about how the National DPP lifestyle change program helps reduce the risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

One of the video participants, 68-year-old Brenda Daniher, says that she reaped the benefits of participating in the lifestyle change program. She feels healthier and sees a much happier future. "I believe this program saved my life from disability and pain. I am a new person!" she said triumphantly. View her story of success, "[Finding her way back to the trail.](#)" State Health Departments (SHDs) are encouraged to share information about the "Imagine You Preventing Type 2" campaign through social media sites and state diabetes prevention communication campaigns. For more information on other ways to partner with NACDD to bring diabetes health messages to your state, please contact [John Patton](#).

Diabetes Awareness Month Campaign Promotes Health Equity



Throughout November, NACDD observed National Diabetes Awareness Month with the theme, “Advancing Health Equity in Diabetes Prevention and Management.” Activities to raise awareness included a social media campaign on [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#), and a [General Member Webinar](#) on Nov. 10.

The webinar focused on “Innovative Models to Increase Access to Type 2 Diabetes Prevention and Management Programs for Priority Populations.” Speakers from the Maryland Department of Health, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, and Community Health Initiatives made up of Caring Health Partners ([CHPcommunity](#)) in Iowa focused on three initiatives to promote health equity and expand the reach of diabetes prevention and management

programs by 1) implementing [HALT](#) and [Spanish HALT](#); 2) creating [Umbrella Hub Arrangements](#) (UHA) through private and public partnerships; and 3) adopting holistic approaches to chronic disease prevention and management.

Meet the New Faces of NACDD’s Diabetes Portfolio

During the last few months, NACDD hired multiple new consultants and staff to support the Diabetes Portfolio team. The new consultants will be supporting a variety of activities within the Portfolio, including coverage and sustainability of the National DPP lifestyle change program.

Welcome Teri Elkins, National DPP Consultant



Teri Elkins, MPH, CHES is a Public Health Consultant on the Diabetes Umbrella Hub Demonstration Team.

She obtained her Master of Public Health (MPH) and Bachelor of Science (BS) in Health and Wellness from

Purdue University Global. She has been a CDC Certified Diabetes Prevention Program Lifestyle Coach since 2014 and is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES).

Prior to joining NACDD, Teri was the Population Health Programs Director at Sun Health and was responsible for overseeing their Association of Diabetes Care & Education Specialists (ADCES) accredited Diabetes Self-Management Education and Training program and Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program (MDPP). She also launched Sun Health’s first online National DPP and Chronic Disease Prevention program that was

incorporated into Sun Health’s employee wellbeing program. Teri has also been involved in NACDD’s MDPP Enrollment Project as an MDPP Supplier and mentor.

She is currently part of the Executive Leadership Team, Chair Elect for the Arizona Diabetes Coalition, and is on the ADCES Payment and Reimbursement Committee.

Teri has a deep passion for diabetes prevention and overall health and wellness that was inspired by her son’s 2007 diagnosis of type 1 diabetes, and through her own 75-pound weight loss journey.

Also, she has more than 20 years of experience working in the banking industry. In her free time, Teri enjoys spending time with her family, being outdoors, traveling, and photography.

She resides in Phoenix, Ariz. and is originally from Northern Minnesota.

Oliver Jenkins, Diabetes Technical Assistance and Support Team Consultant



Oliver T. Jenkins, Jr., is a Public Health Consultant on the Diabetes Technical Assistance and Support team and will support trainings and technical assistance to national organizations enrolling priority populations.

Oliver has more than a decade of experience working as an engaged and driven leader in public health at the national, state, and local levels. He aims to bring about equitable change in the way organizations and agencies promote and support the health of individuals and communities impacted by social determinants of health.

Prior to joining NACDD, Oliver supported diabetes and heart disease programs at the Virginia Department of Health.

Oliver received a master's degree in Sport and Exercise Psychology from Michigan State University, and a bachelor's degree in Human Performance and Psychology from North Carolina Central University.

Oliver currently resides in Midlothian, Va., with his wife, Shaina, and their three children Olivia (12), McKenzie (7), and Remi (2). He enjoys hanging out with his family and traveling. When not traveling, Oliver can be found playing golf or pickleball.

NACDD Embarks on New Chronic Kidney Disease Project

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) remains a major public health problem affecting approximately 30% to 40% of people with type 2 diabetes in the United States. People with CKD are at increased risk for cardiovascular disease and kidney failure or end-stage kidney disease (ESKD). CVD, kidney failure and ESKD can be costly and possibly fatal. Public awareness, early detection, and education by healthcare systems is not systematic or adequate to decrease CKD prevalence.

NACDD selected the [National Kidney Foundation](#) as a recipient of a \$500,000 award through a [request for proposal](#) process. This project will implement a CKD screening, early detection, and education program in a primary care clinic setting using simple tests, routine questionnaires, and patient education at [Universal Health Kansas City Hospital](#). The project will utilize systems change and quality improvement approaches.

The project kicked off in October 2022 and will conclude in July 2023. For questions or further information, please contact [Kelly Durden](#), Associate Director, Program Implementation.

Umbrella Hub Arrangement Summit a Success!

NACDD, through the support of CDC, hosted a UHA Summit in Atlanta, Ga., on September 8 and 9, 2022 with more than 130 virtual and 120 in-person participants. The UHA Summit was a dissemination of lessons learned from the Umbrella Hub Demonstration, SHDs, national organizations, and other partners operationalizing UHAs. Fourteen State Health Departments and nine out of ten 1705 organizations or national organizations focused on enrolling priority populations in the National DPP were represented at the UHA Summit. UHA Summit session recordings, slides, presenter bios, and related resources can be found on the [UHA Summit webpage](#).

Join the NACDD Engagement Community Soon!

Diabetes Council members are invited to join NACDD's [Diabetes Council Partner Engagement in Diabetes Prevention and Management Community](#) site to connect, engage, and learn with State Health Department staff. Please note that the NACDD Engagement Community is only open to State Health Department Diabetes Program staff at this time. For questions, contact Members@chronicdisease.org.

Coverage Toolkit Surpasses 100,000 Users!

NACDD's [National DPP Coverage Toolkit](#), developed to provide information about the mechanics of covering the National DPP lifestyle change program, recently surpassed 100,000 unique users! This enduring and ever-evolving resource has been supporting states, payers, and their partners to establish and operationalize coverage of the National DPP lifestyle change program since its launch in 2017. The National DPP Coverage Toolkit is maintained by NACDD and Leavitt Partners, through support from CDC.

Check out the newest section of the Coverage Toolkit – [Health Equity and the National DPP](#). Located in the [Scaling and Sustainability](#) section, these pages offer perspectives on how promoting health equity can support the impact and reach of the National DPP lifestyle change program. The section also includes information on the roles of the state Medicaid program within health equity initiatives and offers partnership examples for stakeholders.

During the last several years, the concept of UHAs has gained significant traction as a way of supporting the sustainability of the National DPP. Umbrella Hub Arrangements are a novel innovation within healthcare and social services to connect community-based organizations with healthcare payment systems to pursue sustainable reimbursement for programs such as the National DPP.

The [UHA section](#), located in the [Scaling and Sustainability](#) section of the Coverage Toolkit, has quickly become one of the most popular sections since it was released earlier this year. This section has recently been expanded to four pages and reorganized to include additional details related to operationalization of a UHA, learnings from the multi-year CDC/NACDD Umbrella Hub Demonstration, and several new resources. The section is now organized into the following pages: [UHA Overview](#), [Business Model for UHAs](#), [Reimbursement for UHAs](#), and [Sustaining UHAs](#).

Make a Choice for a Healthier Life Texting Campaign



“**Make a Choice for a Healthier Life, Text Today**” campaign is a public health initiative between the [Health Promotion Council](#) and NACDD to ensure that everyone can take a prediabetes risk test to know if they are at risk for developing type 2 diabetes. More than 96 million adult Americans are living with prediabetes, and eight out of 10 adults with prediabetes don't know they have it.

[Hear stories from Healthy Champions](#) across Pennsylvania who have made the choice to eat healthy, be active and LIVE! Please share this resource on your social media sites to spread the word and encourage people to take the test! Text “TODAY” to 600400.

Website: <https://www.makeachoice.org>

Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/MakeAChoicePA/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/MakeAChoicePA/>



Introducing the NACDD Diabetes Pharmacy Network for SHDs

A 2020 article published in *APhA Pharmacy Today* on “[How often do patients see their pharmacist? New study gives insight](#)” showed that people visit their community pharmacy nearly twice as much as they visit their primary care providers, particularly in rural areas. That was no surprise to many State Health Department (SHD) diabetes teams because they have been working with pharmacies and pharmacists for many years.

To bring SHD diabetes teams working on pharmacy projects together, NACDD is hosting the **Diabetes Pharmacy Network**. The Network meetings feature subject matter expert presentations, peer-to-peer sharing, and practical tips for pharmacists who are working on sustaining their diabetes prevention and management education.

The Network includes three affinity groups: 1) states that work with schools of pharmacy; 2) states that work with pharmacies that offer DSMES and the National DPP; and 3) clinical integration of pharmacists. By the end of 2022, all three affinity groups will have met at least once.

The Network met for the first time in September and will meet quarterly during the next year. Listen to the most recent [meeting recording](#). The [first network call](#) featured a panel of pharmacists who discussed becoming an Umbrella Hub for the National DPP; billing and coding for pharmacists; and medication therapy management. Contact [April Reese](#) for more information.

Innovative HALT National DPP and Walk with Ease Coupling Project

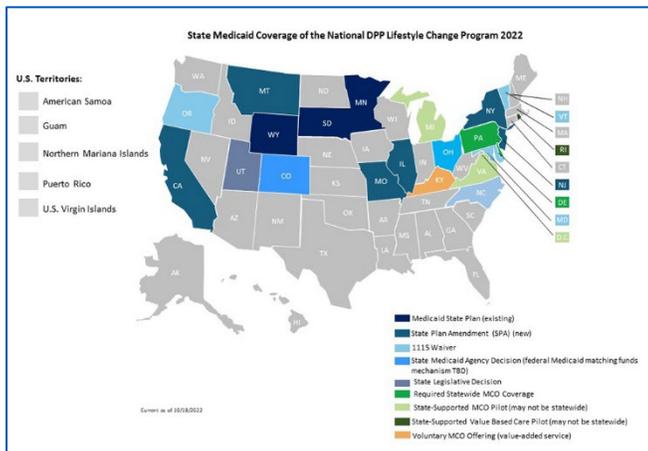
NACDD, the Arthritis Foundation, ProVention Health Foundation, and the Diabetes Training and Technical Assistance Center at Emory University are partnering to couple two evidence-based interventions through an innovative technology solution.

This project will integrate the Arthritis Foundation’s six-week Walk With Ease self-directed program, which focuses on decreasing pain and increasing physical function, into [ProVention’s HALT](#) platform, a web- and app-based tool that local coaches utilize to offer the National DPP lifestyle change program virtually.

This coupling project will leverage the Walk With Ease program to provide National DPP lifestyle change program participants with an evidence-based, structured physical activity component to help them meet their physical activity goals, as well as other health goals related to the program. Learn more [HALT National DPP and Walk with Ease Coupling Project](#).



Medicaid and the National DPP: Enduring Momentum



It has been more than six years since CDC, NACDD, Leavitt Partners, and state partners in Maryland and Oregon launched the Medicaid Coverage for the National DPP Demonstration Project.

This multi-year project resulted in the dissemination of key learnings and the development of resources to help guide Medicaid agencies, SHDs, and their partners to implement, deliver, and sustain coverage of the National DPP lifestyle change program.

The Medicaid Demonstration Project marked the beginning of a robust period of work by CDC and NACDD aimed at Medicaid coverage for the National DPP lifestyle

change program. Those efforts continue today through numerous workstreams that have evolved and expanded over time. Nationally, state Medicaid coverage has significantly increased since 2016. Currently [22 states](#) and Washington, D.C. have some form of Medicaid coverage for the program.

Building the Case for Medicaid Coverage of the National DPP

NACDD and CDC, in collaboration with the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute at the University of Utah, is leading the second year of Building the Case for Medicaid Coverage series, which is offered to SHD diabetes program teams and their partners with readiness to consider Medicaid coverage of the National DPP lifestyle change program.

This six-session series is intended to give participants the information and resources they need to understand Medicaid fundamentals and develop productive connections with their state agencies aimed at coverage of the National DPP lifestyle change program. Halfway through the yearlong series, the focus shifts to direct involvement of Medicaid, allowing state agency representatives to learn firsthand about options for coverage and hear from Medicaid colleagues in states that have successfully implemented coverage of the program. NACDD is excited to have the following states participating in this year's Case for Coverage cohort: Alaska, Idaho, N.H., and Wis.

To learn more about making the case for Medicaid coverage of the National DPP, visit the [Case for Coverage for Medicaid Section](#) of the Coverage Toolkit, or more information about Building the Case for Medicaid Coverage, please contact [Kelly McCracken](#).

Medicaid Beneficiary Enrollment Project Supports 12 States

NACDD's Coverage team leads the Medicaid Beneficiary Enrollment Project, which is in its second year. Through this project, NACDD and partners support states through funding, group-based learning, and individualized technical assistance to increase Medicaid beneficiary access to and utilization of the National DPP lifestyle change program. This year the project is supporting 12 states, each of which participates in one of two tracks based on state interest and capacity:

- **Managed care/value-based care engagement:** Ariz., Ill., Kan., N.J., Ohio, R.I., Va., Wash. (Iowa and Maine are also participating as part of a no cost extension for grant year 2021/2022)
- **UHA:** Del., Mich., Minn., Mo.

These states represent a blend of returning and new state grantees; there is much to be explored and learned through their innovative approaches and motivated teams! For more information about the Medicaid Beneficiary Enrollment Project, please contact [Jen Barnhart](#).



Diabetes Council

Diabetes Council Comings and Goings

The Diabetes Council Leadership Group serves as a collective voice for all SHDs.

For more information about the Diabetes Council and how you can get involved, contact NACDD.Diabetes@chronicdisease.org.

Welcome to the new NACDD Diabetes Council Members. We look forward to working with you!

Claira Spurgeon, KS



Claira Spurgeon is the Diabetes Public Health Educator with the Bureau of Health Promotion, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE).

She recently graduated from Emporia State University in May 2022 with a Bachelor of Science in Health and Human Performance.

Claira develops diabetes prevention and control education activities, including national partner materials and campaigns.

Maria Velasco, Utah



Maria Velasco, MPH is a Diabetes Prevention Program Specialist at the Utah Department of Health and Human Services.

Her past research and work focus has been on obesity, breast cancer, chronic diseases, community health workers, and health disparities in different minority populations.

Living in one of the most diabetes affected areas in her country of Ecuador has shown her the crucial effects of this preventable health issue in families and communities.

Megan Stone, KS



Meghan Stone, MPH is the Diabetes Program Manager with KDHE's Bureau of Health Promotion.

She has four years of experience in Public Health and Community Development. Meghan graduated from University of Kansas Medical Center with her MPH in May 2022.

She looks forward to bringing her passion to the diabetes prevention and management programs at KDHE.

NACDD Diabetes Resources

NACDD Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program Technical Assistance Offerings Page Now Live

Successful implementation of the MDPP is a priority for SHDs. It is important for MDPP suppliers to know the roles of SHDs and learn more about how SHDs can support both suppliers and beneficiaries in their state.

With support from CDC, NACDD helps increase access to and utilization of the MDPP by providing technical assistance to CDC-recognized organizations and SHDs. As part of this technical assistance, NACDD supports CDC-recognized organizations becoming Medicare suppliers, [enrolling participants](#), and submitting claims. NACDD also supports SHD staff and national organization staff who in turn support the CDC-recognized organizations in their state. Visit the [NACDD MDPP Technical Assistance Offering Page](#) to learn more.

For those who would like an introduction to the MDPP or would like help with specific activities such as presenting the MDPP to leadership, onboarding new staff, or working with Medicare Advantage plans, below is

Our New Resources on chronicdisease.org

Several new resources are available to assist you in your diabetes prevention and management work and to learn ways to get more involved in the Diabetes Council.

- [Workgroup Opportunities for Diabetes Council Members](#)
- [Working with Pharmacies to Sustain DSMES](#)
- [Social Media for DSMES Sustainability](#)

NACDD Members are Invited to Submit Success Stories

All NACDD Members are encouraged to submit [What's Working in Chronic Disease Prevention and Control](#) success stories. These success stories are critical to sharing a state's work to increase awareness among policymakers, share ideas with peers, and make the case for increased funding. We are particularly interested in stories about how Members are using Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant funding. You can [submit](#) a story at any time or receive support to submit through our Diabetes Team. To share story ideas or request assistance, email NACDD.Diabetes@chronicdisease.org.



Find NACDD on Social Media

Keep up to date on the latest news, events, and more by following NACDD on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Vimeo](#), and [SoundCloud](#).



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

To submit story ideas for future issues of
The Connector, email
NACDD.Diabetes@chronicdisease.org.

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

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Since 1988, the National Association of Chronic Disease Directors and its more than 7,000 Members have worked to strengthen state-based leadership and expertise for chronic disease prevention and control in all states, territories, and nationally. Learn more at chronicdisease.org.

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