



CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES

COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES BETWEEN BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITY HEALTH MAY CONTRIBUTE TO AMELIORATION OF DIMINISHED HEALTH AND DISABILITY

A briefing was held by the Congressional Wellness Caucus entitled. “Health, the Economy and American Business”. Presenters at the briefing were representatives from business, non-governmental organizations, and a leader from a state involved with implementation of community public health.

Summary Community health is important for business. It attracts retail employers and businesses, There is a need for U; S business to focus on population based health as well as individual based health. The high percent of preventable chronic health conditions in the community and workforce can harm the bottom line of businesses. Building cultures of health in the community and workforce can be mutually beneficial to businesses and communities. Information on the economic effect of poor population based health is needed to engage the business community to improve community based health. For the most part, business leaders are not schooled in the importance of social determinants of health that affect business. Some of the social determinants of health are safe communities, adequate nutritious food supply, safe transportation, clean air and water, health and physical education in the school curricula and other factors. Community health is less direct than incentives to invest in individual health of workers. It was suggested that employers work cooperatively with community stakeholders on population health strategies. Four distinct needs were cited: 1) evidence based interventions, 2) performance incentives, 3) effective metrics, and 4) business leadership. Meaningful metrics are an essential ingredient for employer engagement in population health. Some metrics are improved workforce health, and illness and direct reduction of health care expenditures. Some businesses have extensive wellness plans that include diabetes prevention, health spending credits, personal coaching and training certificates.

Disability Prevention Issues Business involvement with community based population health may prevent diminished health that could contribute to disability. For instance, rates of obesity have increased dramatically since 1960 and have contributed to a surge in chronic health conditions, which diminishes quality of life through diminished health and disability. The U S spends 50% more per person than the next costly nation and businesses pay for a considerable amount of the health care costs. Collaborative efforts of business with community based population public health issues may prevent unnecessary diminished health of some people that may contribute to disability

Activity There is ongoing study of collaborative arrangements between businesses and community based public health initiatives designed to address diminished health of vulnerable populations.

Principle There should be effective collaboration between businesses and community based public health initiatives to prevent diminished health of people