



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

**EFFECTIVE OVERSIGHT OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS MAT PREVENT
DIMINISHED HEALTH AND DISABILITY**

A briefing was held at the Center for American Progress (CAP) on the Government Performance and Results Modernization Act of 2010 (GPRA). The keynote speaker of the event was the Chairman of the Senate Oversight Committee. Other participants were the Associate Director of the Office of Management and Budget, (OMB) and a State budget director. A book was distributed published by Center for American Progress (CAP) on "The Secret of Programs that Work"

Summary

The purpose of the GPRA legislation is to make government more effective through program implementation. It is to identify under performing programs and coordinate programs that overlap. However, the GPRA is not to be used for purposes to balance the budget by dropping programs. Thus, the OMB is a poor source for program evaluation.

Programs fail because of poor design. A checklist was suggested for reviewing new legislation, executive orders, regulatory decisions and tax policy. The journey to successful programs involves an idea, effective design and implementation, evaluation of results and, program reevaluation. Five common flaws cited for new programs were: 1) wrong approach, (leave out basic questions), 2) insufficient evidence, (misunderstanding of how it works in the real world), 3) poor implementation planning (i.e. cost and timelines), 4) wrong incentives, (gaming the system), and 5) insufficient performance assessment (i.e. NCLB performance assessments by states prevented assessment of the program impact). There were examples of checklists associated with GPRA for the legislature, executive decisions, regulations, and tax provisions. A consistent tool that yields data could be helpful in improving public health programs.

Disability Prevention Issue

Goals for programs of social determinants of public health should be developed based on evidence of the results of socially valid population based data that include disability data. One of the problems of public health programs is that there is a narrow focus on process measures rather than socially relevant goals made up of all of the sub goals and objectives. Socially relevant goals should be articulated and tracked to goal achievement with data. Some of the problems associated with program implementation of disability prevention programs are that goal and implementation are usually waived to providers and stakeholders with special interest above those of outcomes for consumers. Too many process measures goals may distract efforts to meet implementation needs of consumers.

Activity

A letter was written to the Chairman of the Senate Oversight Committee of concern for effective oversight programs of public health that prevents disability

Principle

There should be effective oversight of federal programs of social determinants of public health to prevent diminished health and disability