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HPM&B

Judging Dept.

Juwaun Hinkle

Student

HPM&B

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Colleen Flanigan

Dept or Program Years in program

Mentor

TRACKING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NYS VIRAL HEPATITIS STRATEGIC PLAN

Author (s)

Juwaun Hinkle

Background: Viral hepatitis is a major public health problem for many people living in New York State (NYS), including its potential financial burden to the state. The majority of viral hepatitis cases are due to the hepatitis A virus (HAV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), or hepatitis C virus (HCV). In 2003, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) identified a need for a comprehensive, collaborative and organized approach by partners across NYS to address the public health problems associated with hepatitis A, B and C. Along with partners from across the state; the NYSDOH developed the NYS Viral Hepatitis Strategic Plan.

Objective: To track the implementation of the NYS Viral Hepatitis Strategic Plan.

Methods: A survey tool was developed and mailed to 52 individuals. The tool consisted of three major sections: 1) usefulness of the plan, 2) the four focus areas of the strategic plan (prevention, education, surveillance and research, and medical and case management) and 3) future planning activities.

Reminders (i.e., email and phone calls) were sent to individuals that had not returned their survey. A Microsoft Access database was created to analyze the information obtained. Queries were developed to assist in analysis of the data.

Results: Based on the results of the survey, most of the work is focused on viral hepatitis prevention, education, and surveillance and research, while more work is needed to address medical and case management.