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Mon River Fleet News Update

“Reducing the Impact of Diabetes of Persons in the Disparate Population”

Five neighboring communities comprising the Mon River Fleet participated in the PA Department of Health Diabetes Prevention and Control Program (RFA 02-07-11) from January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2007. The Fleet convened monthly to address the problem of the lack of diabetes prevention awareness within their communities, particularly in African-American populations where there was an increase in the onset of type 2 diabetes diagnoses.

During the course of the grant period, the Fleet focused on educating the community about early diagnosis of diabetes and about controlling diabetes by increasing empowerment through behavioral change of persons with diabetes. Assessments conducted in Mon River Fleet communities showed that *“one in four”* respondents indicated that they do not seek the medical care they need because of their inability to pay and lack of insurance coverage. It is evident that those who are at-risk for diabetes, cancer, heart disease and high blood pressure can reduce their chances of acquiring these life-long illnesses by providing them the tools they need that address the risks associated with these illnesses.

The Mon River Fleet is pleased to announce that **607 residents throughout the Mon Valley participated in the Diabetes Prevention workshops conducted by Community College of Allegheny. The target was 500 over the three-year period. Over one-half of those who attended the workshops were African-Americans.** The Fleet’s goal is to pursue further funding sources so that ongoing workshops and follow-up sessions will take place in the Fleet’s at-risk communities.

The Mon River Fleet thanks the following partners of the Diabetes Prevention Project: PA Department of Health, Bureau of Chronic Diseases and Injury Prevention; Community College of Allegheny County; ACHD Diabetes Nurse Specialist; UPMC McKeesport Internal Medicine Program; McKeesport Hospital Foundation; The Rx Council; and Manns Drug Store and CVS Pharmacy.

"The Fleet's 2007-2008 Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccine Project"

The Mon River Fleet SHIPs in McKeesport, Braddock, Duquesne, Clairton and Hazelwood are pleased to announce that a record high of **3,457** influenza and **51** pneumococcal vaccines were provided **free of charge** to residents 18 and older throughout the Mon Valley from mid-October 2007 through January 2008. A total of **60** vaccine sites provided residents with easy access to the vaccines that were administered by over **11** local area emergency response units. The Fleet was honored to coordinate the influenza initiative that impacts all those in our communities who are at-risk for chronic illnesses.

The Fleet extends its deepest appreciation to the PA Department of Health Immunizations Division for approving the Fleet's work statements that were submitted in August 2007 and for the mini-grant that supported group publicity and advertising costs, supplies and other pharmaceutical expenditures and emergency response staffing.

The Fleet (a network of five PA Department of Health community affiliate partnerships) is proud of its strong collaboration with UPMC McKeesport and UPMC Braddock pharmacy and nursing staff, UPMC Health Plan, McKeesport Hospital Foundation, and the following local emergency response units:

Clairton VFD
Duquesne EMS
E-Med Health
Eastern Area Pre-Hospital
Elizabeth EMS
McKeesport Area Rescue Service
Munhall Pre-Hospital
Priority One EMS
PRISM EMS
Rankin EMS
Woodland Hills EMS

The Allegheny County Health Department has posted a number of flu alerts going into February and March 2008. Influenza vaccines are still available to Mon Valley communities that are interested in conducting flu clinics. Contact Mr. William Niccolai, director of pharmacy at UPMC McKeesport, at (412) 664-2262 for further information.