Healthy Food in Health Care Workgroup

Eastern Massachusetts

NEW ENGLAND TEAM

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CORE PARTNERS

Massachusetts Hospital Association
Boston Public Health Commission
Mass Farm to School
Farm to Institution New England
Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance
Healthier Hospitals Initiative
HCWH Global Climate Initiative
Farm to School Network
Real Food Challenge

Return on Investment

As a result of the Affordable Care Act, ACO providers now have an incentive to promote population health. Activities of this work group aim to:

- Increase access to healthy food
- Create an environment of health for hospital staff and visitors
- Communicate demand to the supply chain to make healthy food affordable
- Reduce the overuse of antibiotics to impact the emergence of antibiotic resistant infections
- Reduce individual and community exposure to environmental toxins in our food system that promote chronic illness
- Promote disaster resilience by building a regional food system

Through participation, your facility becomes a key player in prevention-based care. Healthier staff and community means lower health care costs.

Resource Needs

The path to success is paved by champions in the sector. Time, money and support are the 3 key resources of success. The following is necessary for us to support your internal efforts:

Food Service Director participation

Work group and sub-committee meetings are held on a quarterly basis and may require interim participation for follow up communication, information gathering, and shared strategies to move this work forward



Hospital Leadership Support

Regular touch-base meetings are suggested for participants to connect with hospital leadership on progress and potential needs. It is important to articulate goals to contracted food service management companies, group purchasing organizations or vendors through contract language.

Budget Flexibility

Although many sustainability initiatives yield a cost savings there are times when product shifts or new purchasing pathways require an initial investment. Working with your team to determine a manageable margin during this transition period will assist in shifting the broader market. By showcasing this demand, you are playing a critical role in shifting the food system towards increased accessibility and lower costs for healthy, sustainable foods.

Healthy Food in Health Care (HFHC) is a national initiative of Health Care Without Harm (HCWH). We harness the purchasing power and expertise of the health care sector to advance the development of a sustainable food system. The program provides education, tools, resources, and support for facilities to implement programs that explicitly connect all aspects of the food system with health. We catalyze sustainable procurement efforts, create clinician advocates, and inspire health care institutions to become leaders in shaping a food system that supports prevention-based health care.

Massachusetts Healthier Hospitals Initiative (HHI)

The Massachusetts Hospital Association (MHA) is a formal support organization of the national Healthier Hospitals Initiative (HHI) offering hospitals support in the Energy and Food Challenges

Eastern Mass Work Group

This is one of 7 health care food service learning collaboratives underway in New England. Co-Chaired by Paul O'Connor of Boston Childrens Hospital, this workgroup is composed of representatives from Boston area hospitals that are leaders in the implementation of innovative healthy food and beverage strategies. Participating facilities will identify opportunities to mobilize the groups' collective power and social influence to improve environmental and population health, support the local economy, and achieve the goals of the Healthier Hospitals Initiative Food Challenge. The Eastern Mass Work Group consists of 2 Subcommittees:

Healthy Food Healthy People

Co-Chaired by Tom Wagstaff, RD. LDN, Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital Boston, members of this sub-committee will work collaboratively with the Boston Public Health Commission to improve the nutritional health of hospital food and beverage offerings, educate and empower facility patrons to make healthy choices and increase procurement of locally sourced, sustainably produced food.

Community Food Outreach

Members of this sub-committee will identify innovative strategies to increase access to healthy, locally sourced and sustainably produced food in their communities by forging community partnerships and leveraging community benefit funds. Participants will identify best practice strategies, program development and implementation challenges through peer learning and expert presentations.

Getting Involved

FOOD SERVICE DIRECTORS & PURCHASING AGENTS

Contact Us to participate in Work Group activities.

CLINICIANS

Contact HCWH Senior Clinical Advisor to join the growing network of clinicians active in policy and supporting institutional change.

ADMINISTRATORS

Enroll in the MA Healthier Hospitals Initiative www.healthierhospitals.org

Healthier Hospitals INITIATIVE

Learn more at:

healthyfoodinhealthcare.org