



WISEWOMAN Partner Profile

Partner: Michigan Department of Community Health –
Diabetes and Kidney Unit

Highlights: Program staff from the Diabetes and Kidney Unit at the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) began working with WISEWOMAN in 2005. At the time, WISEWOMAN did not conduct glucose screening. The Diabetes and Kidney Unit wanted us to also offer diabetes primary prevention. In other words, we would not just look for people with diabetes. We would look for people with pre-diabetes and work with them to prevent or delay diabetes.

After conducting a successful pilot at the Lenawee County Health Department WISEWOMAN program, the Diabetes and Kidney Unit worked with us to begin offering glucose screening in all WISEWOMAN screening sites. By January 2008, we were up and running in all sites. This was just in time for our competitive WISEWOMAN application to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In this competitive application, CDC required us to conduct glucose screening, so it was a real advantage to already have it in place. Another advantage was the fact that Michigan WISEWOMAN was the only WISEWOMAN program in the country to offer diabetes primary prevention.

Even after we rolled out the glucose screening, the Diabetes and Kidney Unit has continued to be an active partner with WISEWOMAN. In 2009, Diabetes and Kidney Unit staff developed the Michigan Diabetes Prevention Course. This is a curriculum based intervention for use with WISEWOMAN participants (and others) who are at risk for diabetes. In the fall of 2009, staff from both WISEWOMAN and the Diabetes and Kidney Unit conducted training sessions for WISEWOMAN Lifestyle Counselors on how to use the curriculum.

The partnership with the MDCH Diabetes and Kidney Unit has been beneficial for everyone involved. It has been especially beneficial to the WISEWOMAN participants who are now able to receive these expanded services as part of their screening.