

# Peer Support and Engagement of Patients and Families: Evidence and Key Directions

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Task Force on Patient and Family Engagement:  
Focus on Patient and Practice Level Interventions



**Peers for Progress**  
*Peer Support Around the World*

A program of the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation

# Fundamental Role of Social Connections and Support



Human beings are more effective and happier when they have someone

- they can talk to about personal matters
- who cares about them
- who can help them when they need help

The risk of death associated with social isolation is greater than the risk associated with cigarette smoking

House, Landis & Umberson. *Science*, 1988 241: 540-544.

Holt-Lunstad, Smith, & Layton *PLOSMedicine*, 2010, 7: July e1000316  
[www.plosmedicine.org](http://www.plosmedicine.org)

Harlow, H.F., & Harlow, M. (1966)  
Learning to love. *American Scientist*  
54: 244-272.

[www.peersforprogress.org](http://www.peersforprogress.org)

- Who We Are
- Learn About Peer Support
- Promote Peer Support
- Get Connected
- Take Action
- Tools & Training
- News & Events

Peers for Progress is a program of the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation and supported by the Eli Lilly and Company Foundation.





## A Learning Community of Peer Support

Peers for Progress is building a Global Network of Peer Support Organizations, and invites you to join in this global endeavor.

>JOIN THE GLOBAL NETWORK



# peersforprogress.org

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IDEA EXCHANGE →

A summer of Peer Support in Thailand

Note: This is the first in a two part series by two University of North Carolina Masters of Public Health students...

>READ MORE

Peer Supporter Training Resources Series  
Training Peers to Deliver a Church-Based

HEADLINES & FEATURES →

Updated Peers for Progress Publications List

This is a continually updating list of recent Peers for Progress publications and presentations. This current version...

>READ MORE

PfP Guide to Program Development  
Management

SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE →

Community Health Workers Assisting with Childhood Asthma

Peretz and colleagues reported the results of a New York based Asthma program to address asthma in the community. As...

>READ MORE

FEEDBACK

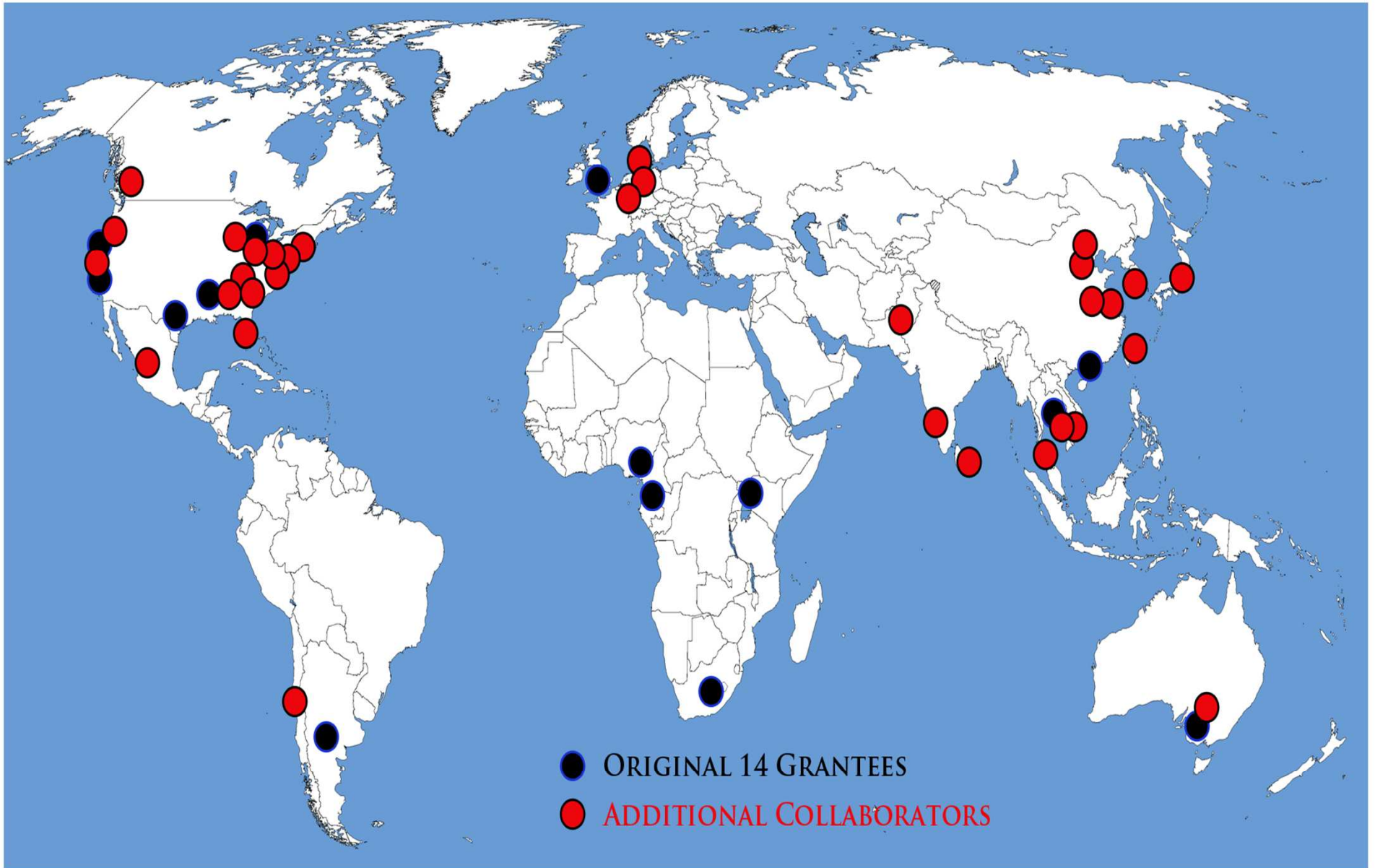
E-NEWSLETTER

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f t e SITEMAP

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# **Disease Management & Prevention – 8,760**

**8,766 = 24 X 365.25**

**6 hours a year in a doctor's office or  
with other health professional.**

**8,760 hours “on your own”**

- **Healthy diet**
- **Physical activity**
- **Monitor status**
- **Take medications**
- **Manage sick days**
- **Manage stress – Healthy Coping**
- **Arrange medical appointments and testing**
- **Sleep**

# For Diabetes Self-Management Support: Strengths of Peer Supporters

- Not professionals
- Often have the health problem they are assisting with
  - e.g., people with diabetes helping others with diabetes
- **Share perspectives, experience of those they help**
- **People believe them because they are “like me”**
- Can teach how to implement basic self management plans (e.g., healthy diet, physical activity, adherence to medications)
- ***Have time!!!***

# Outcomes of Peer Support – Major Reviews

- Dunn, J., Steginga, S. K., Rosoman, N., & Millichap, D. (2003). A Review of Peer Support in the Context of Cancer. *Journal of Psychosocial Oncology*, 21(2), 55-67.
- Perry, H. B., Zulliger, R., & Rogers, M. M. (2014). Community health workers in low-, middle-, and high-income countries: an overview of their history, recent evolution, and current effectiveness. *Annu Rev Public Health*, 35, 399-421.
- Swider, S. M. (2002). Outcome effectiveness of community health workers: an integrative literature review. *Public Health Nursing*, 19, 11-20.
- Tyus, N. C., & Gibbons, M. C. (2007). Systematic review of US-based randomized controlled trials using community health workers. *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action*, 1(4), 371-381.
- Viswanathan, M., Kraschnewski, J. L., Nishikawa, B., Morgan, L. C., Honeycutt, A. A., Thieda, P., et al. (2010). Outcomes and costs of community health worker interventions: a systematic review. *Med Care*, 48(9), 792-808.

## Utility and Benefits of Peer Support

- **Link people** to share knowledge and experience
- Provide **health education** at the individual as well as community level
- Provide **practical assistance** for how to achieve and sustain complex health behaviors that are needed in chronic disease management and prevention
- Provide **emotional and social support**
- Help people **cope with the stressors** that so often accompany health problems
- Help people **get the clinical care** and other services that they need; assist in navigating the system
- Build **individual and community capacity** for understanding health problems and promoting ways of addressing them
- **Advocate** for patients and their communities
- Build **relationships based on trust** rather than expertise
- Build **cultural competence** through peer supporters that often come from the communities they serve

Brownson, C. A., & Heisler, M. (2009). The Role of Peer Support in Diabetes Care and Self-Management. *The Patient: Patient-Centered Outcomes Research*, 2(1), 5-17

Cherrington, A., Ayala, G. X., Amick, H., Allison, J., Corbie-Smith, G., & Scarinci, I. (2008). Implementing the community health worker model within diabetes management: challenges and lessons learned from programs across the United States. *Diabetes Educ*, 34(5), 824-833.

Colella, T. J. F., & King, K. M. (2004). Peer support. An under-recognized resource in cardiac recovery. *European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing*, 3(3), 211-217.

Heisler, M. (2010). Different models to mobilize peer support to improve diabetes self-management and clinical outcomes: evidence, logistics, evaluation considerations and needs for future research. *Fam Pract*, 27 Suppl 1, i23-32.

Rosenthal, E. L., Brownstein, J. N., Rush, C. H., Hirsch, G. R., Willaert, A. M., Scott, J. R., et al. (2010). Community Health Workers: Part Of The Solution. *Health Affairs*, 29(7), 1338.

Solomon, P. (2004). Peer support/peer provided services: Underlying processes, benefits, and critical ingredients. *Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal*, 27, 392-401.



# Systematic Review of Evidence Among Publications on Peer Support

- **01/01/2000 – 5/31/2011** : “peer support,” “coach,” “*promotora*” etc.
- 66 separate studies met criteria of:
  - Provided by nonprofessional
  - Support for multiple health behaviors over time (i.e., not isolated or single behaviors)
  - Not simply peer implementation of class
- Preliminary outcomes:
  - Significant within- or between-group changes:  
**83.3%** of reports using controlled designs

# Results: Diabetes Management

- In 14 studies\*
- HbA1c mean
  - Pre: 8.63%
  - Post: 7.77%
  - $p = 0.001$

\* Studies from 2000 – July, 2012: Babamoto et al. 2009, Beckham et al.2008, Culica et al. 2008, Dale et al. 2009, Greenhalgh et al 2011, Heisler et al 2010, Mayes et al. 2010, McElmurry et al 2009, McEwen et al 2010, Otero-Sabogal et al. 2010, Ruggiero et al. 2010, Sacco, 2009, Smith, et al. 2011, Walton et al. 2012

# WHO Consultation, November, 2007



Australia	Mexico
Bangladesh	Netherlands
Bermuda	Pakistan
Brazil	Philippines
Cameroon	Saudi Arabia
Canada	Singapore
China	Switzerland (WHO)
Egypt	Turkey
Gambia	Ukraine
India	United Kingdom
Indonesia	United Republic of Tanzania
Jamaica	United States

- 1. Key functions are global**
- 2. How they are addressed needs to be worked out within each setting**

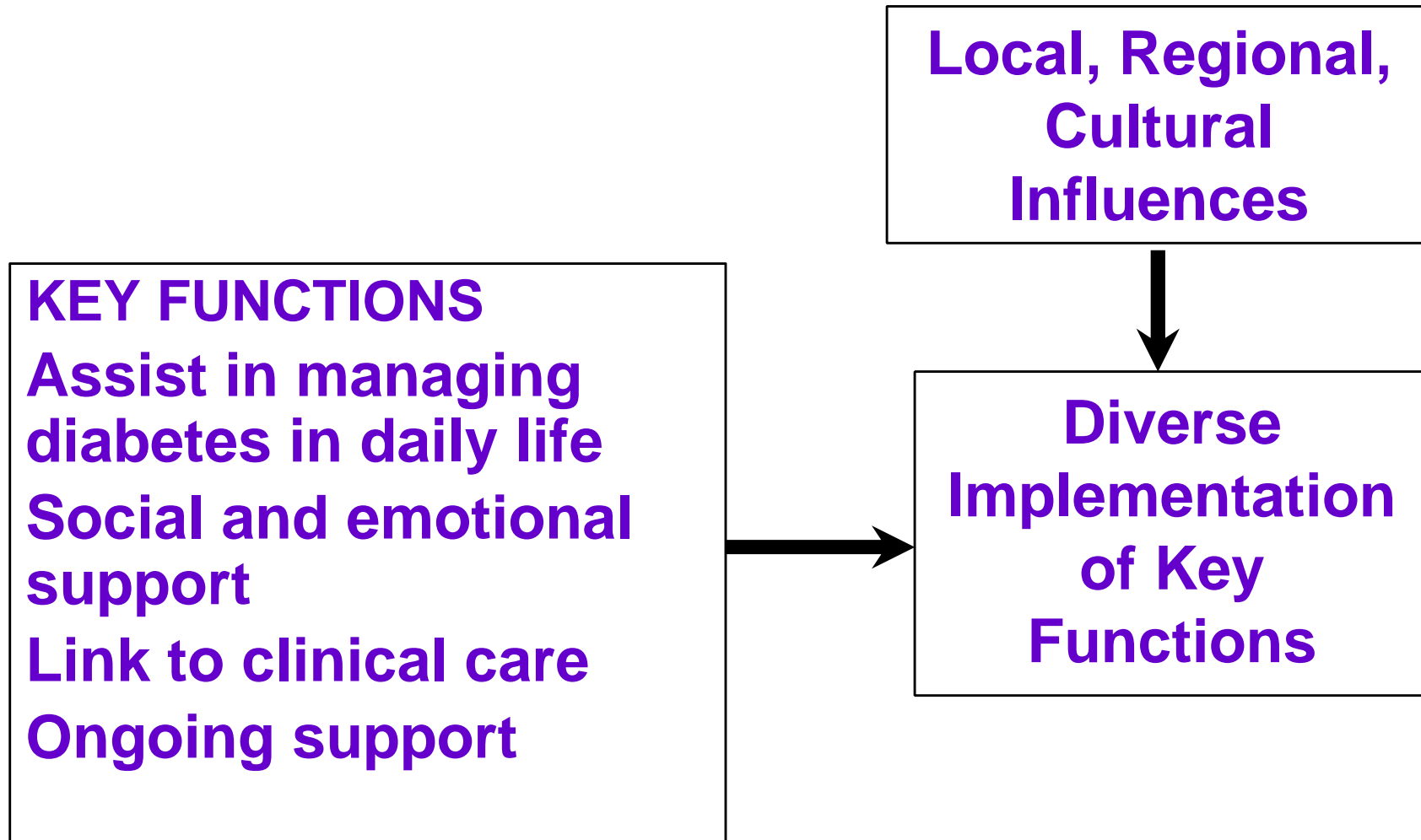
# Key Functions of Peer Support

1. **Assistance, consultation in applying management plans in daily life**
2. **Social and Emotional Support**
3. **Linkage to clinical care**
4. **Ongoing support, extended over time**

# “Standardization by function, not content”

*Hawe et al. British Medical Journal 328:1561-1563, 2004.*

*Aro et al. Eur J Public Health 18:548-549, 2008*





# Peer Support in Cameroon

Jean Claude Mbanya, University of Yaoundé and Central Hospital, Yaoundé

**Assistance in Daily Management** Group meetings, individual contacts (5 per month), and varied activities, e.g., group meals to demonstrate healthy diet, group exercise

**Social and Emotional Support** Could discuss with Peer Supporter topics unable to discuss in group or with professionals

**Linkage to Clinical Care** Peer Supporters not clinicians but motivational link between participants and clinical care;  
Accompany patients to clinic visits

**Ongoing Support** Developed to be continued indefinitely, e.g., convenient locations, only modest honoraria for Peer Supporters

## Impacts: over 6 months

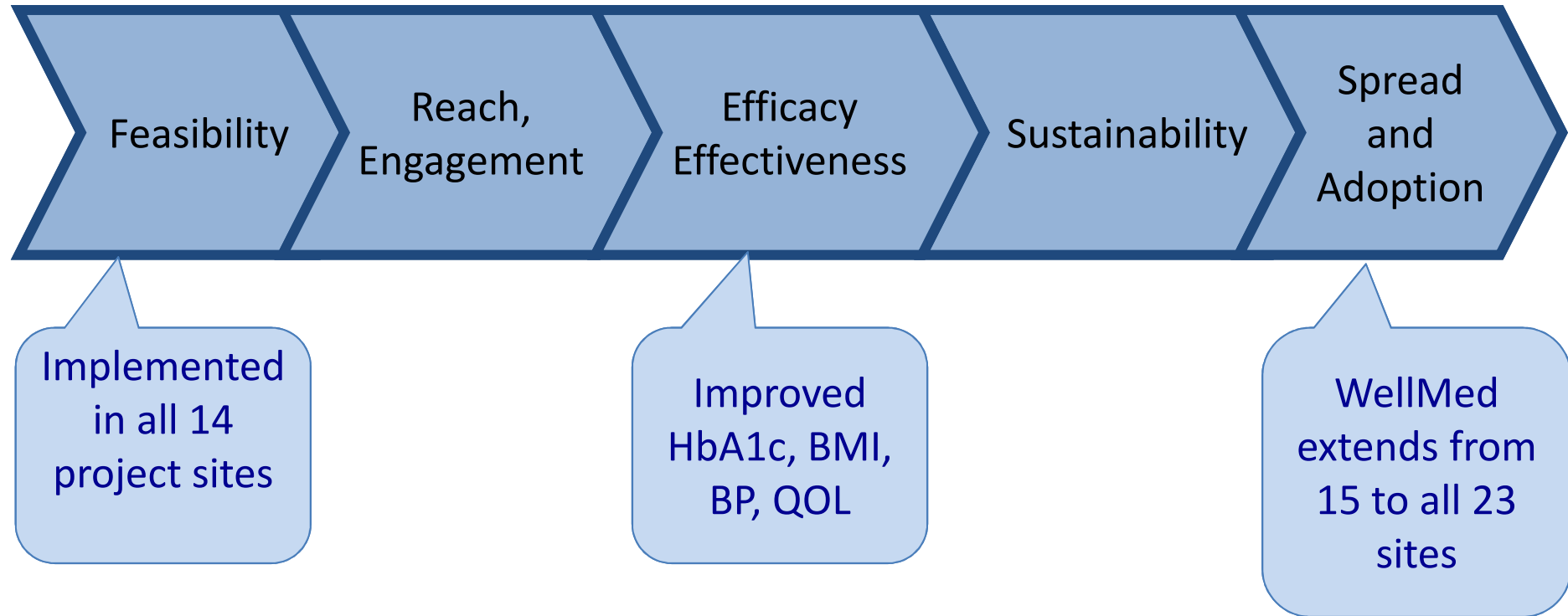
BMI: 28.6 - 25.5    SBP: 142 – 124    HbA1c: 9.6 - 6.7%

Fisher et al. *Health Affairs* 2012 31: 130-139.



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# Emerging Results from Projects



# Emerging Results from Projects



Mean baseline HbA1c = 8.92%

86 of 102 finished program in Vietnam

68% of eligibles participate, 75% retention in Cambridgeshire  
over 1 year



# Emerging Results from Projects



Thailand: Two years after end of funding, VHVs still doing diabetes activities

South Africa: After 2+ years, increased enrollment, local funding

Uganda: Patients scheduled for appointments on same clinic day as their partners

Cambridgeshire, England:

October, 2013: several hundred peer leaders and participants met to discuss ongoing organizational structure for program

Diabetes UK has grant to extend to 8 areas in the Eastern region and West Midlands.

Not sustaining *the program*, but *digestion* into existing routines and activities

## Cost Effectiveness

### **Encourage Program in Alabama** (C. Campbell, PhD Dissertation, University of Alabama-Birmingham, 2014)

- 59% probability of being cost-saving
- 55% to 93% probability of being cost-effective, depending on assumptions, inclusion/exclusion, e.g., higher probability for those with depression or poorer baseline clinical status

### **In FQHC in Denver** (Whitley et al. J Hlth Care Poor Underserved 2006 17: 6-15)

- Shifted costs from urgent care, inpatient care, and outpatient behavioral health care
- Increase utilization of primary and specialty care visits.
- ROI = 2.28:1.00.

### **Diabetes Initiative of Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** (Brownson et al., The Diab Educator. 2009 35: 761-769)

- 3 of 4 projects in cost analysis emphasized peer supporters
- Cost per Quality Adjusted Life Year (QALY) = \$39,563  
(well below \$50,000 criterion for good value)

### **Asthma CHW Project with Medicaid Covered Children in Chicago** (Margellow-Anast et al., J. Asthma 2012 49: 380-389)

- Three to four CHW home visits over 6 mos and liaison with care team
- ROI: \$5.58 saved per dollar spent

### **Lifestyle Modification for Low-Income Latino Adults with Diabetes** (Brown et al., Prev. Chronic Dis. 2012 9:E140 )

- CHWs and nurse educator: home visits, self-mgmt education, individual counseling
- \$10,995 to \$33,319 per QALY
- Especially cost-effective among those with HbA1c > 9%

### **Preventing Rehospitalization in Schizophrenia, Depression, Bipolar Disorder** (Sledge et al., Psychiatr. Serv. 2011 62:541--44 )

- *Recovery Mentors* provided individualized frequency, mode, content of support
- Over 9 mos: 0.89 vs 1.53 hospitalizations, 10.08 vs 19.08 days in hospital ( $p < 0.05$ )

### **Reducing Depression/Anxiety Disorders in India** (Patel et al. Br. J. Psychiatry 2011 199:459-466; Buttorff et al. 2012 90: 813-821)

- Education about psychological problems, ways of coping, and interpersonal therapy delivered by lay health counselors with primary care and psychiatric back-up
- 30% decrease in prevalence, 36% in suicide attempts, 4.43 fewer days no work/reduced work in previous 30 days.
- Lowered time costs resulted in Intervention being cost effective and cost saving



# Reaching the Hardly Reached

A light blue world map is visible in the background of the footer bar.

[www.peersforprogress.org](http://www.peersforprogress.org)

# Peer Support in San Francisco

Thomas Bodenheimer, University of California, San Francisco

**Clinical Setting** Six Department of Public Health safety-net primary care clinics serving patients covered by Medicare/Medical or San Francisco's coverage for uninsured residents

- Majority of patients were non-white, ethnically and culturally diverse

**Patient Contact** Patients had average of 7.02 interactions with their coach, including 5.37 telephoned calls

## Outcomes

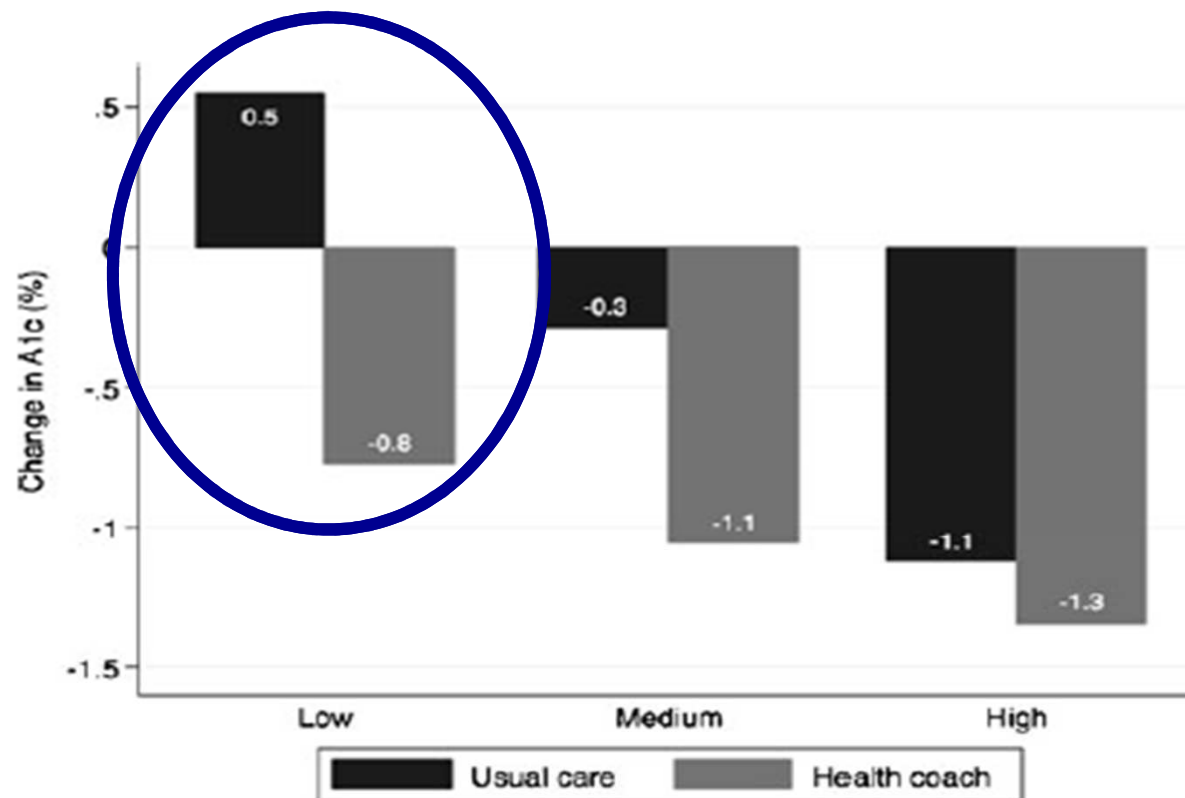
Reduction in HbA1c by > 1 point: 49.6% vs 31.5%

HbA1c < 7.5%: 22% vs 14.9%

**Changes in HbA1c at 6 Months (p = 0.01)**



## In San Francisco, Greater Improvements Among Those With Low Initial Medication Adherence



**Figure 2. Change in hemoglobin A1c at low, medium and high levels of medication adherence, stratified by study group. Adjusted for age, marital status, hypertension, initial HbA1c, insulin use, body mass index.**

Moskowitz et al. J Gen Intern Med. 2013 28: 938-942.

## Reaching the “Hardly Reached”

PS **more** effective among those low in self-reported **medication adherence and/or self management** (Moskowitz et al. *J Gen Intern Med.* 2013 28: 938-942.)

PS **more** effective among those with **low baseline diabetes support or literacy** levels (Piette et al. *Chron Illn* 2013 Dec;9(4):258-67)

PS **more** effective in reducing post-partum depression among women with **household debt and/or lower levels of economic empowerment** (Rahman et al. *Br J Psychiatry* 2012 Dec;201(6):451-457.)

PS more cost-effective among those with **depressed mood or poorer baseline clinical status** (C. Campbell, PhD Dissertation, University of Alabama-Birmingham, 2014)

PS effective in reaching 89% of **low-income, unmarried mothers of Medicaid-covered children** hospitalized for asthma and in reducing rehospitalization by 50% (Fisher et al. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med* 2009 Mar;163(3):225-32.)

PS effective in reaching 87% of “**High Need**” adults with diabetes (HbA1c > 8%, Psychosocial Distress, Physician’s Referral) at Alivio Medical Center, FQHC in Chicago

PS effective in reaching and significantly reducing HbA1c among low-income Latino patients of FQHC, **43% of whom had 6<sup>th</sup>-grade education or less.**

# Peer Support and Multimorbidity

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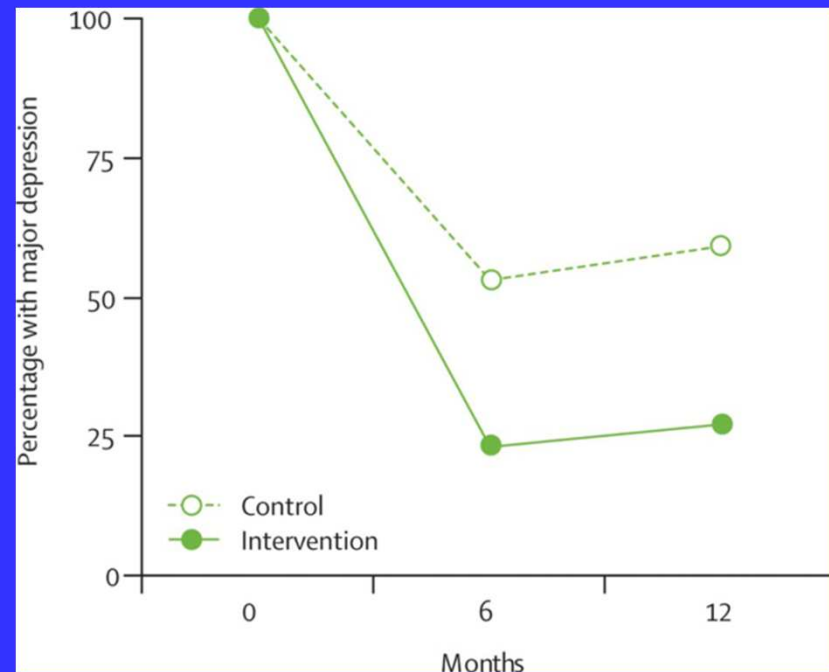
# “Lady Health Workers” in Pakistan Reduce Post-Partum Depression

“Lady Health Workers”  
Completed 2ndry education  
Responsible for  $\approx$  100 households  
Primarily general health education and preventive maternal and child care  
Extending to TB and HIV detection and control  
 $\approx$  96,000 LHWs cover 80% of Pakistan rural population

Rahman et al.  
*Lancet* 2008 372: 902-909  
*Arch Womens Ment Health* 2007 10: 211-219.

Manual based intervention, “Thinking Healthy Programme”

- Promote change in thoughts likely to increase depression
- Practical problem solving
- Collaboration with family



What is the intervention?

What are we treating?

Dissemination



# Key Functions and Mental Health

## 1. Assistance, consultation in applying management plans in daily life

Carry out “homework”

Problem solving

## 2. Social and Emotional Support

Empathy, encouragement, “nonspecific factors” of psychotherapy

## 3. Linkage to clinical care and community resources

Specialty care

Community programs

## 4. Ongoing support, extended over time

Mental health problems are chronic, relapsing

Encourage maintenance of problem solving and effective behaviors

Identify need for renewed primary or specialty care

# Common Ground of Problem Solving

- Self management – problem solving - central to diabetes and chronic disease management
- Common self management/problem solving steps:
  1. Specific objective
  2. Identify possible steps to achieve objective; Choose one
  3. Learn key skills, rehearse, plan application
  4. Try it – monitor results
  5. Revise plan in light of results
  6. Repeat 2 – 5 until objective achieved

# Example of Physical Activity

- **Set objective of moderate physical activity 150 min per week**
- **Over one month, achieve objective**
- **Effects:**
  1. **Improved mood**
  2. **Improved metabolism**
  3. **Modest weight loss**
- **Was this management of diabetes or depression?**



## Example from Rahman's Lady Health Worker Intervention for Post-Partum Depression

“... case where poverty and the husband's chronic unemployment were an underlying issue in the mother's depression, the LHW used CBT techniques to motivate her to take a small loan from the government's micro-credit scheme. The money was used to **purchase a buffalo** to sell its milk for profit (the LHW had personal experience of such a venture and was able to guide her). The woman was able to return the loan, gained tangibly from the intervention, both materially and in self-worth and confidence, and this led to marked improvement in her depressive symptoms”

Rahman, A. Challenges and opportunities in developing a psychological intervention for perinatal depression in rural Pakistan – a multi-method study. *Archive of Women's Mental Health*. 2007 10: 211-219. p 217.

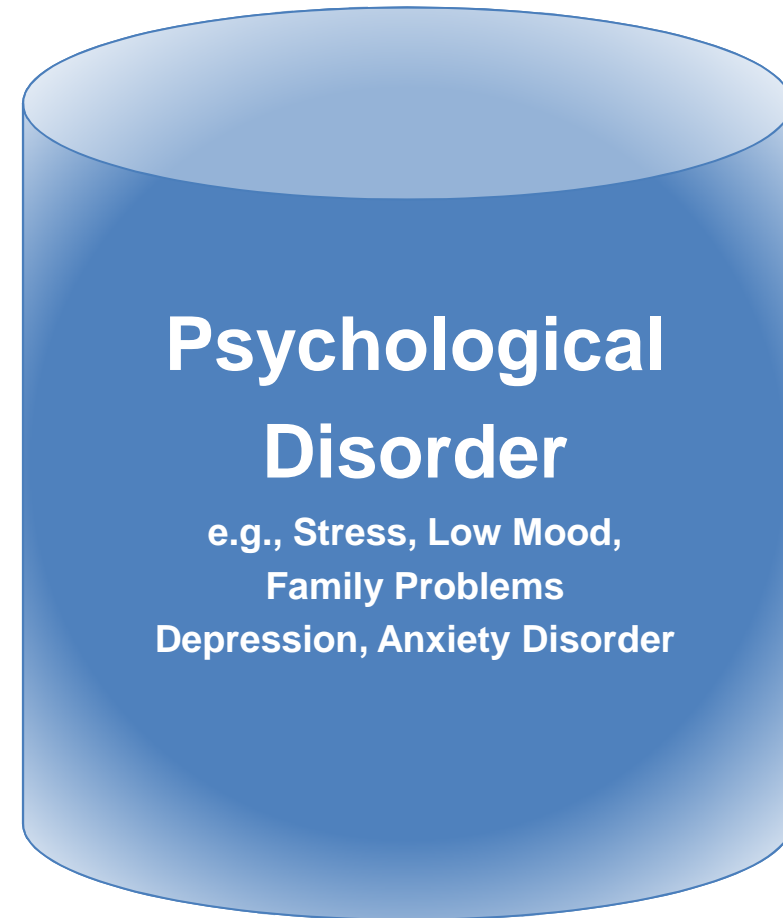
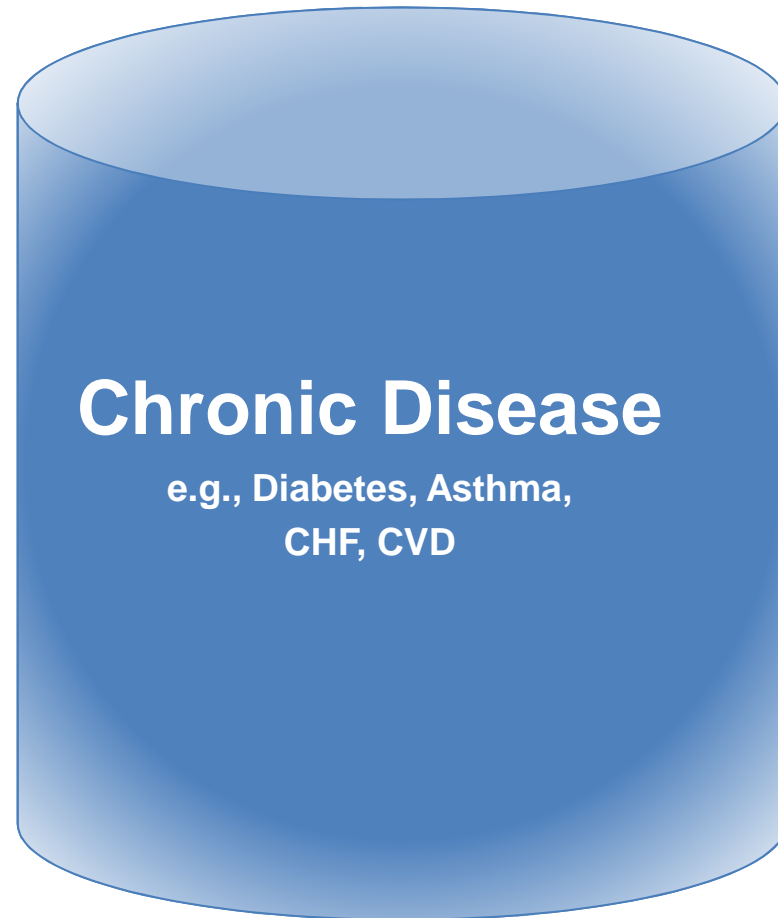
What is the intervention?

What are we treating?

Dissemination



# Simple Model of Comorbidity



# Clinical Reality

## A Familiar Individual Case History:

2 YO: Low family income, single parent, disadvantaged, poor diet, compromised nurturance, epigenetic changes in stress mediators

8 YO: Hx abuse, overweight, discouraged, poor grades

16 YO: obese (HBP? IGT?), poor grades in school, limited social development, inflammatory changes

35 YO: BMI = 35, HBP, IGT, frequent depressed mood and general suspiciousness, frequent sleep disturbance, variable employment,

50 YO: Type 2 diabetes, HBP, BMI = 38, joint problems, ADL impacts, Dx depression, variable employment, sleep disturbance, hospitalization in previous year, Rx for DM, HBP, Depression, Joint pain, sleep disorder ...



# Chronic Disease and Psychological Disorders as Expressions of Complex Biological, Psychological, and Socioeconomic History

## Chronic Disease

e.g., Diabetes, Asthma, CHF, CVD

## Psychological Disorder

e.g., Depression, Anxiety Disorder,  
Personality Disorder

## Complex of Developmental, Biological, Psychosocial Determinants

Communities Organizations

Housing Social Networks

Families Behavior

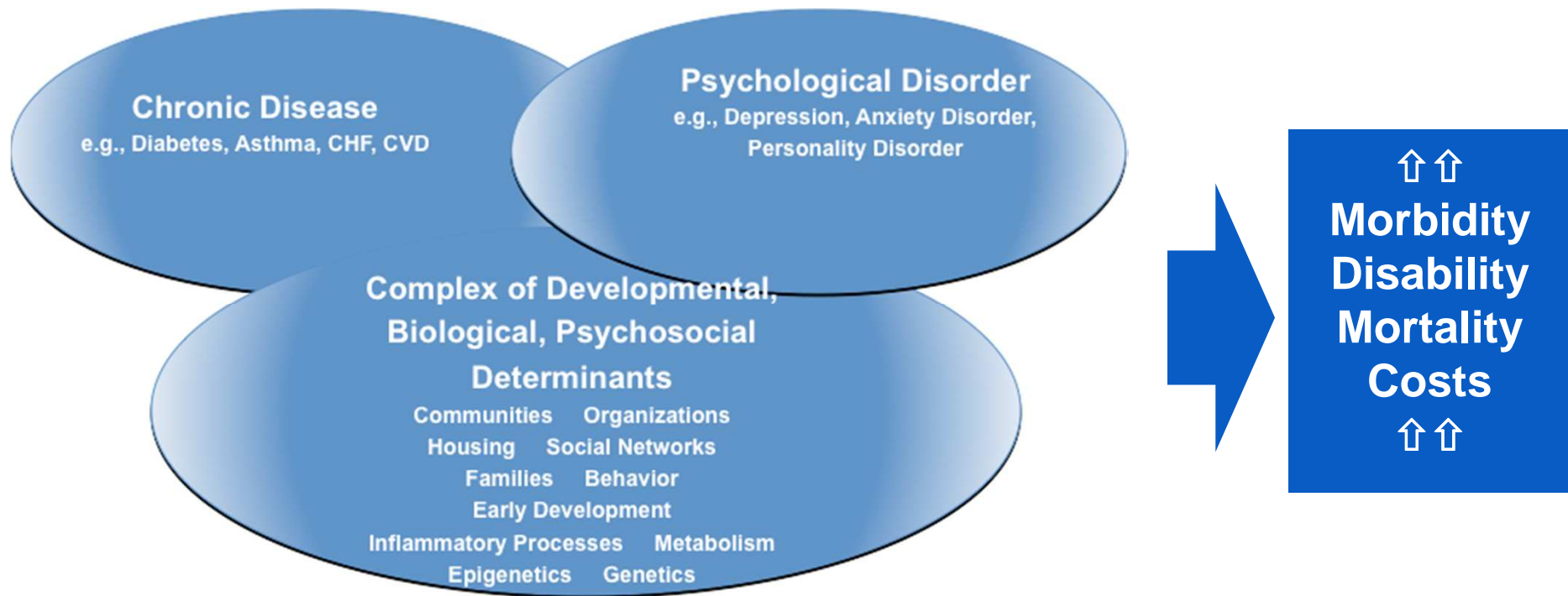
Early Development

Inflammatory Processes Metabolism

Epigenetics Genetics



# The Face of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Illness Burden



Fisher, Chan, Kowitt, Nan, Sartorius, & Oldenburg, (In Press). In: N. Sartorius, M. Maj, & R. Holt (Eds.), *Comorbidity of Mental and Physical Disorders*. Basel: Karger



# Jade and Pearl in Hong Kong

Juliana C. Chan and colleagues, Hong Kong Institute of Diabetes and Obesity; The Chinese University of Hong Kong; Prince of Wales Hospital

JADE – Structured Care Management (Chan et al. *Diabetes Care* 2009 32: 977–982.)

- Algorithm and registry based care
- Initial appraisal and report to PCP
- Quarterly reports, including to patient
- Initial patient education session

*Nota Bene:*  
JADE is the  
Control Group

PEARL – Peer Support (Chan, Am Diab Assoc, June, 2012)

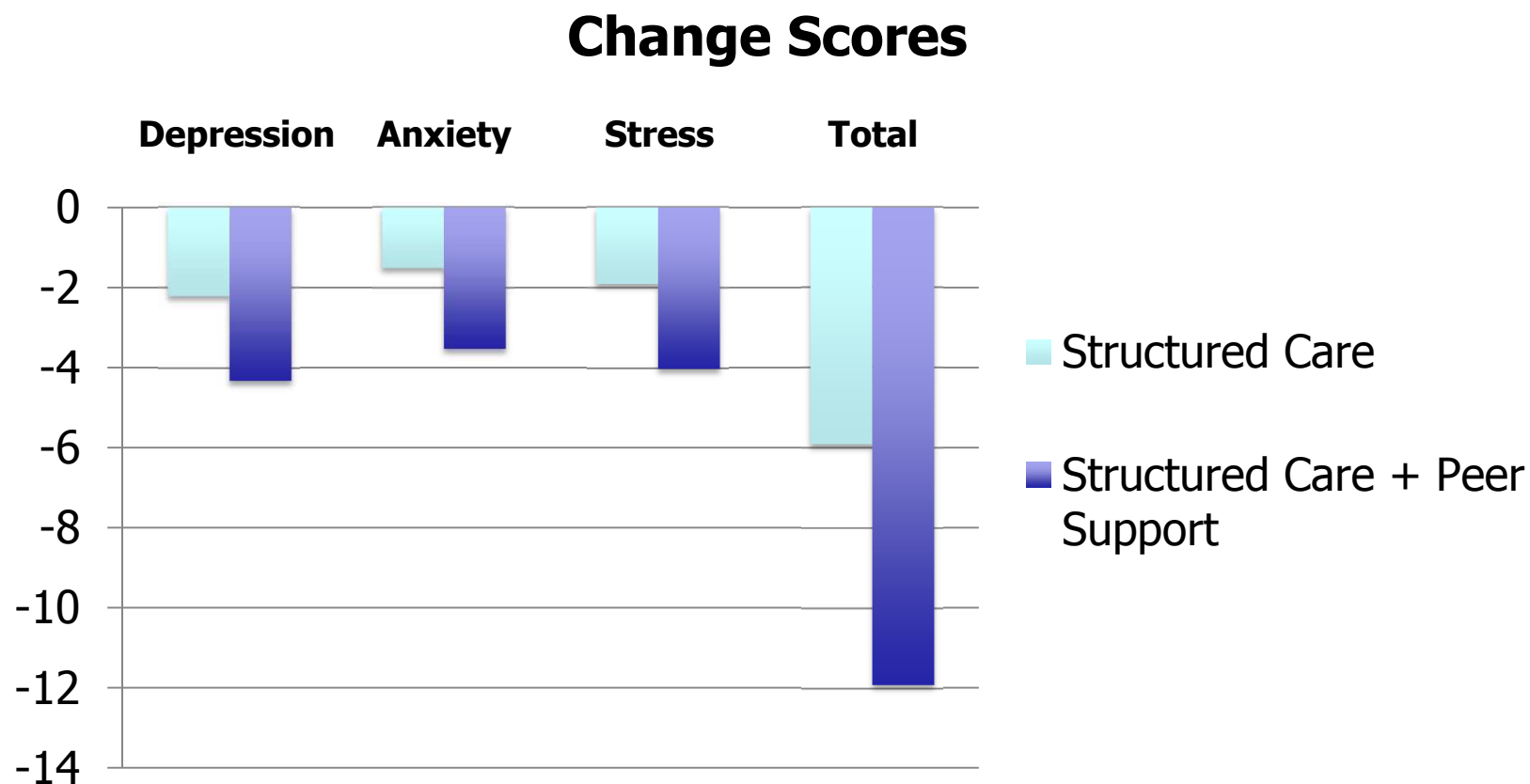
- Peers work through and trained by nurses
- Peer support classes
- Individual contacts:
  - Protocol: 12 over 12 mos
  - Average of 17

[www.peersforprogress.org](http://www.peersforprogress.org)

Chan, J. et al. *JAMA Internal Medicine*. Online First, 29 April, 2014

# 20% Above Cut-Off for Appreciable Distress

(Total Score on Depression, Anxiety and Stress Scale > 17)

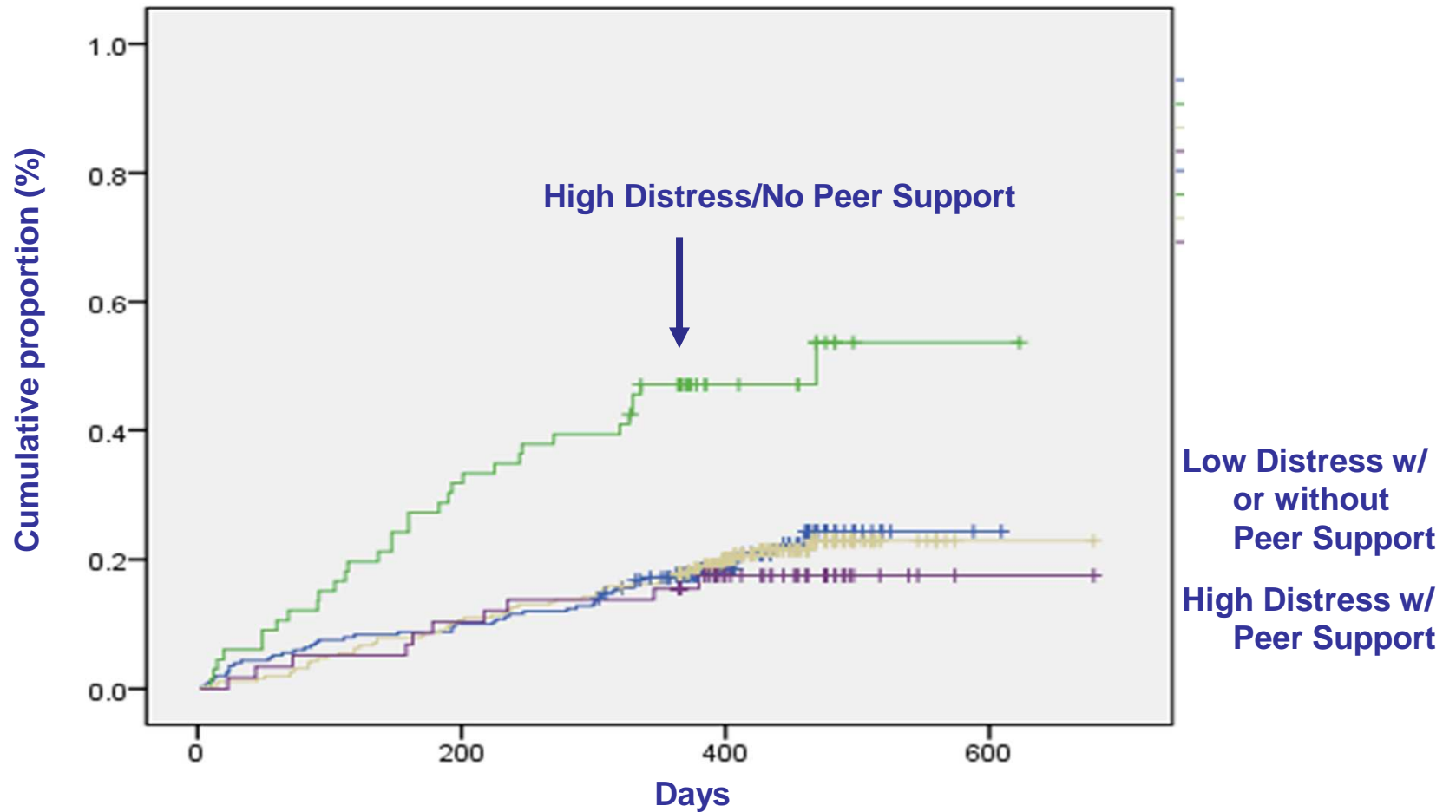


DASS – Depression Anxiety Stress Scale All  $ps < 0.05$   
(\*Adjusted for DASS\_Depression\_Pre, DASS\_Anxiety\_Pre, and DASS\_Stress\_Pre)  
DDS – Diabetes Distress Scale

[www.peersforprogress.org](http://www.peersforprogress.org)

Chan, J. et al. *JAMA Internal Medicine*. Online First, 29 April, 2014

# 20% Who Are Distressed → 40% of Hospitalizations



What is the intervention?

What are we treating?

**Dissemination**

# Broad Commonalities of Mental Health Rather Than Diagnostic Singularities

Substantial implications for *dissemination* to populations

Several projects show noteworthy *benefits on emotional distress/quality of life* which interventions were *not designed* to address

Self management interventions in general, e.g., in diabetes, improve emotional status (The Diab Educ'or: Fisher et al. 2007 33: 1080-1103; Thorpe et al. 2013 39: 33-52)

Provision of Informational and Instrumental implicitly entails emotional support (Kowitt et al. in preparation)

Thus, diverse deployment of peer support for many health and social purposes may contribute to overall reduction of mental health burden

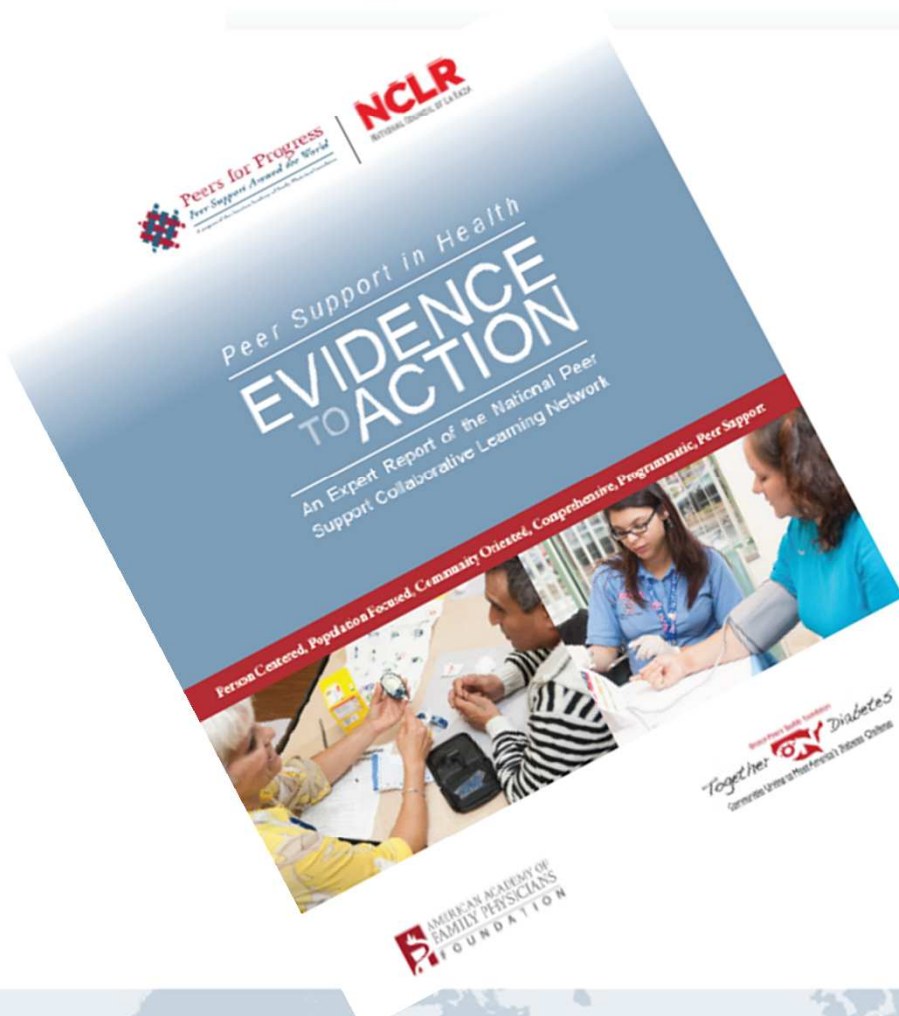


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**NCLR**

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA



**Comprehensive**  
**Programmatic**  
peer-support that  
**Reaches Populations**  
while remaining  
**Patient Centered**  
**Community Oriented**

[www.peersforprogress.org](http://www.peersforprogress.org)



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# **Reaching Entire Population of Adults with Diabetes**

**¡MI SALUD ES PRIMERO!**  
PROGRAMA DE DIABETES

**Alivio Medical Center, Chicago**



# Approximately 3800 with diabetes

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**High Priority** – HbA1c > 8%, Psychosocial Distress, Physician's Referral

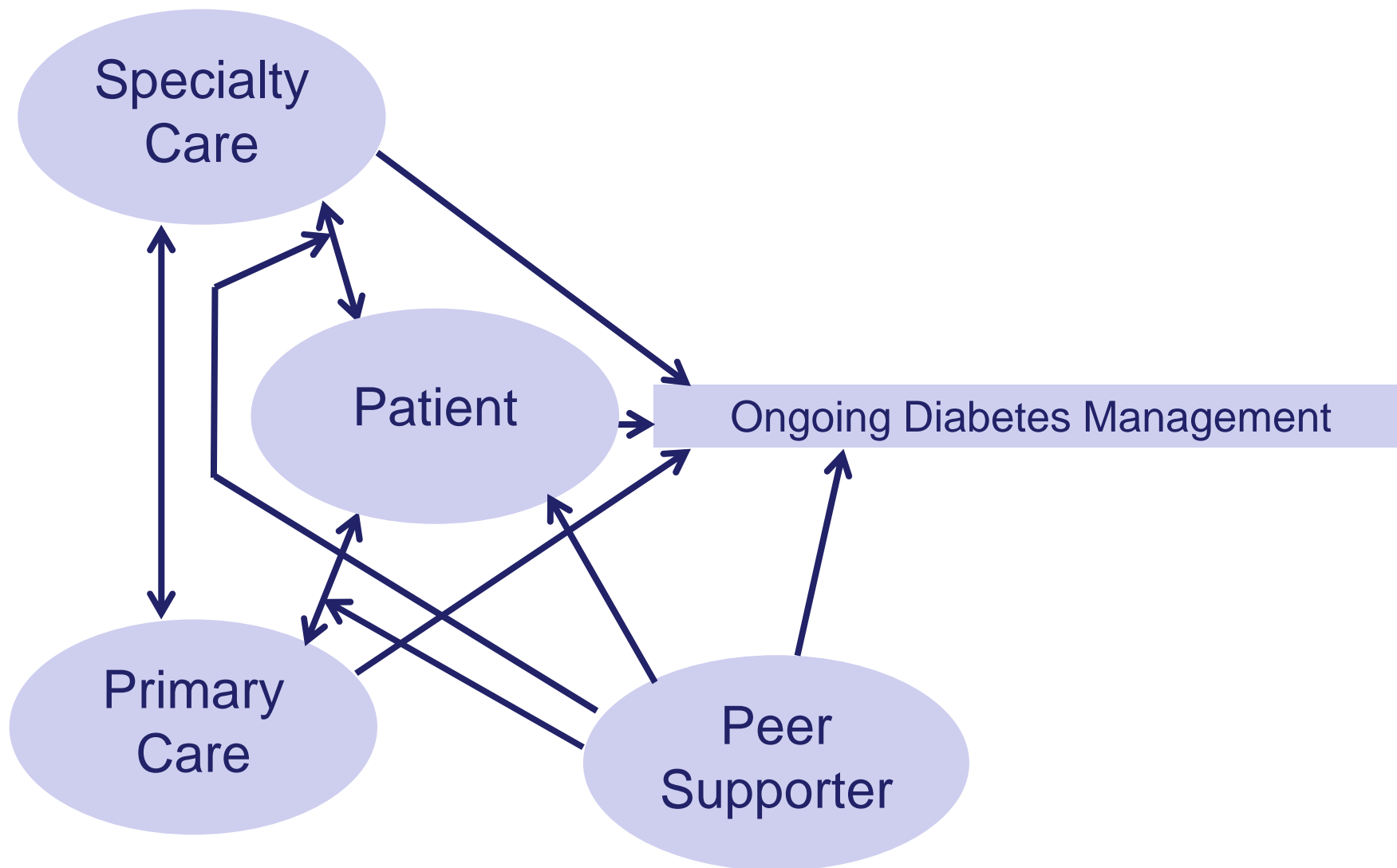
- 472 of the 3,800
- Individual contact biweekly, then monthly
- Focus on regular care, diet, exercise, emotional support, assistance with other problems

**Normal Priority** – Education classes, Support groups, activities, contacts at clinic visits

**Progress to Date — August, 2012 – April, 2014:**

409 / 472 (86.6%) of High Priority have been reached

2476 / 3328 (74.4%) of Normal Priority have been reached



# Shared Care Plan:

**Critical in Linking Patients, Clinical Team, Peer Supporter  
Complementarity of Roles**

**Goals**

(e.g. Live to 80)

**Objectives**

(e.g., lose 10 lb)

**Specific Behaviors**

(e.g. walk after dinner)

←←←←←←←← Person with Diabetes →→→→→→→→

Physician →→→→→

Clinical Team →→→→→

Peer Supporter →→→→→→→→→



# Benefits for Health Care Providers

1. Strategy for culturally sensitive outreach and follow-up
2. Coaching patients to assume more active roles in health care
3. Enhanced ***linkage between patients and provider teams***
4. Strategy for ***diabetes self management support*** (chronic disease self management support)
5. Emerging evidence of ***reduced costs*** (e.g., hospitalization in Hong Kong)
6. Strategy for recognizing and promoting appropriate care for ***psychosocial problems***
7. Part of ***alternative to PCP serving as social worker, dietitian, and psychologist***
8. “With all of this, I get to practice medicine”

# Peers for Progress in China, Taiwan, Western Pacific

## Collaborative Model:

- In-country leadership and ownership
- Peers for Progress: General expertise in peer support, global networking

## Taiwan Association of Diabetes Educators (TADE)

- Three workshops, over 120 representatives of 36 hospitals/clinics
- Workshops starting tomorrow in Taitung

## Suzhou, August, 2013: Workshop for 200 program managers



## Chinese Diabetes Society's Study Group of Diabetes Care and Education

- Two workshops and follow-up 60 program managers, representing over 28 hospitals and community health centers

## Beijing – 8760 Program of Beijing Diabetes Prevention & Treatment Association

- 500 Peer Leaders through 50 hospitals/Community Health Centers to reach 50,000







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## Peer Support in Health and Health Care

### A Guide to Program Development and Management

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<http://www.peersforprogress.org> / Implement / Start a Program

[www.peersforprogress.org](http://www.peersforprogress.org)

# Peer Support Modes

- Peer Supporters as part of community based organization, linked with clinical providers
- Individual, trained peer supporters offer assistance, coaching, “being there”
- Group classes and support sessions
  - Group Medical Visits
- Mutual-help groups
  - May be self governing
  - Experienced leaders are important
- Outreach, patient engagement, and self management/education from primary care, e.g., “Patient-Centered Medical Home”
- Peer Supporter as part of clinical team
- Peer Supporters working as “extenders” and under supervision of Care Managers
- Peer Supporters based in and extenders of Group Medical Visits



# Recruiting Peer Supporters

- Time available – availability to those served is key
- Like to talk to others, happy to find out about others' children, interests, etc.
- Able to learn and teach basic disease management or health promotion behaviors
- Motives may be mixed – both interest in being useful and engaged as well as desire to help the community

## ***Key Personal Characteristics:***

- Broad minded, do not see diabetes or people's problems as simple, no easy answers
- Will embrace team, will use back up support from professionals

# Training Peer Supporters

- Goal is to be able to help others implement their management plan
- Don't need skills of nurse or dietitian
- ***So, training is to knowledge of a patient who understands their diabetes well***
- Teach skills for
  - Simple counseling (active listening, motivational interviewing)
  - Promoting behavior change

# Management of Peer Support Program

- Clearly identified manager of program with time allocated for this responsibility
- Back up plan
  - Questions, issues peer supporter cannot answer/handle
  - Refer to nurse, primary care, specialist
  - **Prompt response** to patient's question
- Ongoing support for supporters
  - Weekly meeting
  - Share questions, problems, develop program improvements
  - Emotional support for difficulties encountered
- Monitoring and supervision as reflecting the importance of the work, not mistrust; tone of improving, not surveillance

# Success Factors

- Keep it simple – Remember that peer support is meant to be from “people like me”
- Avoid too many details of training – Remember, key is knowing, listening, and ***being available***
- Key: ongoing support and information for peer supporters
- Back up system in place is critical



Human beings are happier **and more effective** when they have someone they can talk to about personal matters, who cares about them, and who is reliably available

So...

Peer supporters can make real contributions without fixing things or being experts, but just by listening, knowing those they want to help, and being available

## Frequently Asked Questions: Quality Control, Misinformation??

- **Key:** Consider situation of peer supporter – basically a good person wanting to do no harm but wanting to help people who often face serious obstacles
  - If provide readily accessible resources, peer supporter will use them
  - If make resources hard to access, peer supporter will try to help with whatever resources they have available
- Recognize that information is not controllable
  - Promoting good information creates channel of influence
  - Trying to control or police information (impossible task) shuts off a channel
- Solid training and careful selection for those willing to be part of team as opposed to wanting to be heroes or the source of all knowledge and help
- Clarify: key role is support and assistance, not clinical expertise
- Key is back up, support, monitoring ***of the peer supporter***
  - Regular supervision, opportunity for peer supporters to discuss problems
  - 24/7 contact for peer supporters (titrate according to, e.g., routine, need within 24h, emergency)
  - Becomes major value added – peer supporter can get authoritative answer to questions from nurse, primary care provider, specialist prn





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**NCLR**

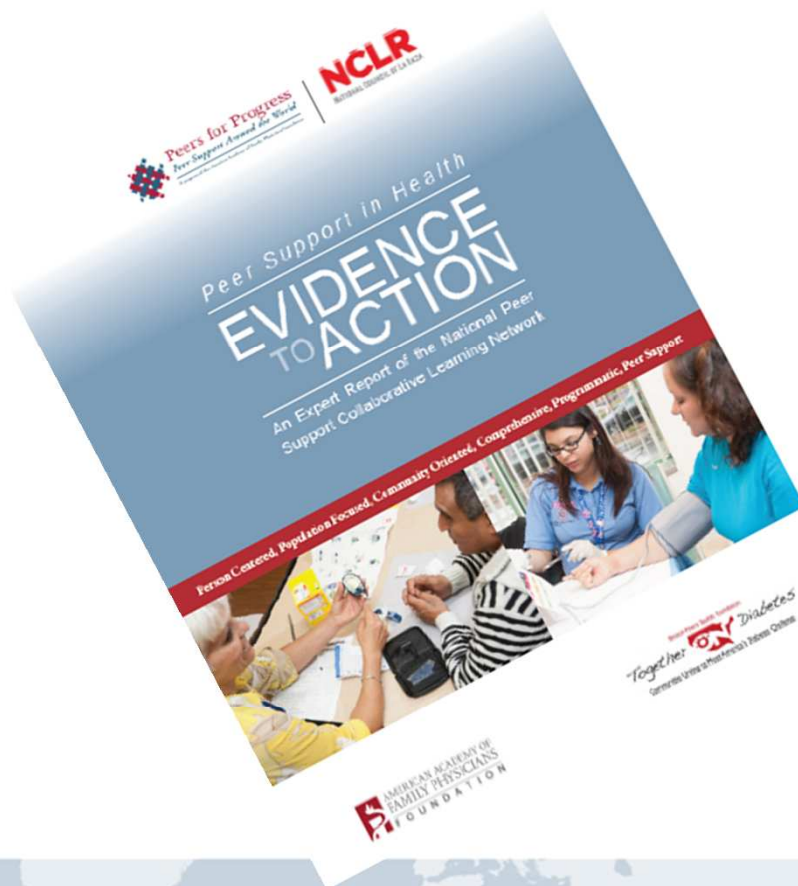
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA

## National Peer Support Collaborative Learning Network

### Advisory Committees:

- Quality Assurance (incl. definition, certification, supervision)
- Financial Models
- Special Audiences and Populations
- Advocacy
- Communications & Networking
- Organizational Factors and Integration

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[www.peersforprogress.org](http://www.peersforprogress.org)



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- Who We Are
- Learn About Peer Support
- Promote Peer Support
- Get Connected
- Take Action
- Tools & Training
- News & Events



# Thank You!!

## A Learning Community of Peer Support

Peers for Progress is building a Global Network of Peer Support Organizations, and invites you to join in this global endeavor.

[>JOIN THE GLOBAL NETWORK](#)

[peersforprogress.org](http://peersforprogress.org)  
[edfisher@unc.edu](mailto:edfisher@unc.edu)

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<b>IDEA EXCHANGE</b>	<b>HEADLINES &amp; FEATURES</b>	<b>SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE</b>
<p><b>A summer of Peer Support in Thailand</b>          Note: This is the first in a two part series by two University of North Carolina Masters of Public Health students...</p> <p><a href="#">&gt;READ MORE</a></p>	<p><b>Updated Peers for Progress Publications List</b>          This is a continually updating list of recent Peers for Progress publications and presentations. This current version...</p> <p><a href="#">&gt;READ MORE</a></p>	<p><b>Community Health Workers Assisting with Childhood Asthma</b>          Peretz and colleagues reported the results of a New York based Asthma program to address asthma in the community. As...</p> <p><a href="#">&gt;READ MORE</a></p>
<p><b>Peer Supporter Training Resources Series</b>          Training Peers to Deliver a Church-Based</p>	<p><b>PfP Guide to Program Development Management</b></p>	<p><a href="#">FEEDBACK</a>   <a href="#">E-NEWSLETTER</a>   <a href="#">CONTACT PEERS FOR PROGRESS</a></p>