IT’S ALL HAPPENING HERE.
Disclosure to Participants

• Notice of Requirements For Successful Completion
  – Learning goals and objectives on next slide
  – Learners must attend the full activity and complete the evaluation in order to claim continuing education credit/hours

• Conflict of Interest (COI) and Financial Relationship Disclosures:
  – Presenter: Stuart Nelson, VP, Institute for Spirituality and Health - NONE
  – Presenter: Thomasina Burns - NONE

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Learning Objectives

• Create tools to engage faith communities in a culturally considerate way.
• Recognize the nuances of religious belief and practice, and their relationship to health promotion.
• Describe the unique considerations that must be made when working with communities of faith.

The Faith + Diabetes Initiative

• The Faith and Diabetes Initiative is part of Cities Changing Diabetes – Houston and is an effort to engage communities of faith around diabetes awareness, prevention, and treatment.
Central to The Faith and Diabetes Initiative is the Congregational Health Leadership program, which empowers lay leaders in diverse communities of faith to address pressing health issues, with a special focus on diabetes.

**Congregational Health Leadership Training Program**

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**Congregational Health Leadership Training**

- Education
- Religious Belief
- Leadership
- Evaluation

**Faith + Diabetes Houston**

- Congregational Health Leaders Trained
  - From 3 different Faith traditions – Christian, Muslim, Hindu
- Houses of Faith and faith-based community organizations
  - Throughout Harris and Fort Bend County
- People reached through Diabetes Self-Management Classes
  - Classes provided in English and Spanish
Religious Studies
• Describes, compares, explains, and interprets traditions.
• Contexts vary widely
• Key concept: reflexivity
** Different from seminary, divinity, theology, etc.

Religious Studies x Public Health
• Can we draw upon theories and methods from religious studies to aid in diabetes education?
• Yes! The Building Blocks Approach (Taves) has been employed in this initiative.

The Beauty of Plurality
Differences Are Important to Recognize

According to your tradition…

• What does it mean to be healthy?
• What’s the best way to become healthy?
• What ultimate concerns should we care about?
• What “big questions” are important, and how can we answer them?
  — Where do we come from? Where are we going? What is the purpose of our time on earth? What is the nature of the divine?

We likely all have different answers to these questions, sometimes even within the same tradition!

More differences...

Q: What are some ways in which a community of faith is different from, say, a school, business, public community center, library, etc.?

All that said, across traditions we all have some version of…

SPECIAL THINGS
In our traditions, we have some version of special...

- People
- Places
- Times and Seasons
- Objects
- History
- Values and Decision Making
- Powers/Forces
- Goals and Methods
- Beliefs
- Texts
- Practices/Rituals
- Sources of Authority
- Stories
- Food
- Music
- Language
- Symbols
- Artwork
- Rules/Customs

The Strength of Faith + Diabetes

- Health information and support from their most trusted source
- Peer to Peer teaching and learning
- Participants have a spiritual foundation

Our Biggest Challenges

- Consistency amongst the leaders
- Religious politics and bureaucracy
- Building confidence
The Amazing Opportunities

- The widespread impact
  - The ability to reach beyond the participants
- Impacting and changing the culture of health
- Restoring faith in Healthcare

The BEST part!

- New Relationships
- The Impact
- Exposure
- Expansion

Q & A
Feel free to contact us…

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