TAKING ACTION TO HELP CHRONIC PAIN SUFFERERS IN DELAWARE

September 3, 2015
Phil Mandel, PAIN LINX
WHY AM I HERE?

• To educate and call you to ACTION

• To celebrate September as Pain Awareness Month

• To discuss the National Pain Strategy
YOU HAVE THE POWER TO HELP PAIN SUFFERERS IN DELAWARE

• YOU or a loved one has chronic pain
• YOU will be obtaining knowledge
• YOU and other people have the power
ACTIONS TO CHANGE THE WAY CHRONIC PAIN IS PERCEIVED AND TREATED

• Assist legislators to better understand chronic pain
• Request the Healthcare Commission to develop a chronic pain initiative
EXISTING SUPPORT FOR CHRONIC PAIN SUFFERERS

• Governor Markell’s Proclamation declaring September as Pain Awareness Month in Delaware
• PAIN LINX community organization
• The National Pain Strategy
SUMMARY OF GOVERNOR MARKELL’S PROCLAMATION

• More than 100 MILLION people in the U.S. live with chronic pain
• Many healthcare professionals are unaware of how to effectively treat pain
• Increased awareness and treatment options can lead to much needed relief
• ALL CITIZENS SHOULD STRIVE TO EDUCATE THEMSELVES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES ABOUT CHRONIC PAIN
AN EXAMPLE OF AN ACTION: ESTABLISHMENT OF PAIN LINX

• I founded the organization, with the cooperation of Beebe Healthcare, taking ACTION in Sussex County
• It offers education and support for those who have chronic pain
• Such organizations can be formed throughout the state
THE NATIONAL PAIN STRATEGY

• Federal initiative as result of the Affordable Care Act

• HHS, DOD, VA, and pain-related organizations both public and private

• Significant effort to bring chronic pain into the “daylight”
THE NATIONAL PAIN STRATEGY, CONTINUED

• Comprehensive population health strategy:
  • How severe is chronic pain as a public health issue
  • Prevention and care improvement
  • Disparities in servicing populations
  • Service delivery and reimbursement
  • Educate and train medical professionals
  • Public awareness and communication
THE NATIONAL PAIN STRATEGY
MY CONCLUSIONS

• Effort that will require tremendous resources, monitoring, and leadership
• Need for massive public relations campaign
• Each individual state can use the objectives of the National Pain Strategy
RECOMMENDATIONS

• Realize that YOU have the POWER to effect positive change

• Become ACTIVE by:
  • Requesting legislation that addresses specific issues involving chronic pain
  • Ask the Healthcare Commission to create an initiative:
    1. Communicate to the medical community to improve patient care
    2. State is working for them and they can help
  • Resources on chronic pain – Google
  • Lobbying Techniques - Booklet
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