Report on Drug Disposal Education and Action Day Project

A) Project Implementation
Saturday, August 25, 2018 the Greenville County Medical Society Alliance had the “Booth for a Cause” at the Farmer’s Market in downtown Greenville, South Carolina. The market is open every Saturday from May through October from 8am-12pm and well attended by local Greenville residents, tourists and residents of other surrounding towns. Local non-profit groups can submit an application to be considered to have the booth for one Saturday during the 6 months for only $15.

With the funds we received from AHEI, we purchased 200 medication disposal pouches to distribute to market goers. We received an additional $200 from our State Alliance and used $100 of those funds to purchase stickers to apply to each medication pouch with the AHEI and GCMSA logos (see picture section). We used the remaining $100 from our State Alliance to print bookmarks with drop off locations for unused medications within our County to also distribute at our booth.

We successfully distributed all 200 medication disposal pouches and lots of the bookmarks. We heard stories from people who had just lost loved ones to cancer and didn’t know what to do with the unused pain medications left behind, a mom whose son struggles with an addiction and she didn’t know what to do when she found his medications, and people who had just completed surgery and still had drugs at home. We were able to explain how and why they should properly dispose of the unused opioids and how the medication disposal pouches worked.

It was a great time connecting with members of the community and enjoying time together volunteering as an Alliance. We even connected with two physician spouses who were not yet members. All in all a very successful Saturday!

B) Use of AHEI funds – The funds we received from AHEI were used to purchase one case or 200 medication disposal pouches which were distributed to the Greenville, South Carolina community.

C) If Project met objectives – We were able to distribute all 200 medication disposal pouches to members of the community and to educate them on the proper methods for disposing of their unused medications. We will also able to tell people who the Alliance is and what we do in the community. We connected with at least 2 other physician spouses and were able to encourage them to become members.

D) Outcomes measured – All 200 pouches were distributed.
E) How Project Could be Improved – If we were to do it again, I would recommend a communications committee to reach out to local news outlets to hopefully get coverage in the local news media. The opioid crisis is a hot topic and I think it could have been a great story.

F) Other helpful information
FREE Medicine Disposal Pouch

GCMSA

AHEI
Alliance Health Education Initiative

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