

# Diabetes in School Health (DiSH): Statewide Telementoring Communities for School Nurses

Whitney N. Beaton, MSN, ACCNS-P, CDCES<sup>2</sup>, Jackie Allen, DNP, RN, ACCNS-P, <sup>4</sup> Bobbi Burgess, BS<sup>1</sup>, Allison J. Pollock, MD<sup>1,3,5</sup>

1. University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, Madison WI, Department of Pediatrics, 2. UW Health Kids, Madison, WI  
3. University of Washington School of Medicine, 4. Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, 5. Medical College of Wisconsin

## Background

- School nurses are central to the health and safety of children with diabetes and often assume responsibility for diabetes care during the school day.
- Many school nurses have limited access to up-to-date education about rapidly changing diabetes technology and care strategies.

## Purpose

The purpose of DiSH is to support school nurses' knowledge related to diabetes care in schools through a monthly telementoring program.

## Methods

- Needs assessments were distributed to School Nurses to gauge interest in an educational program and inquire about perceived needs for diabetes education.
- Expert planning committee adapted the telementoring educational model, Project ECHO, to address the desire to develop a community of learning to provide ongoing diabetes education to School Nurses.
- Each DiSH session follows a similar format (Figure 1). Recording of expert presentation is posted to website and post-session summary email is sent to DiSH subscribers.
- Session topics (Figure 2) are selected based on expert planning committee advice and school nurse feedback.
- Program feedback and evaluation is obtained through online surveys distributed through DiSH and state school nurse liaisons.
- DiSH programs exist in Wisconsin, Washington and Montana (Figure 3).



Figure 1. Format of monthly DiSH sessions. Sessions are hosted on ZOOM.

## Results

- Survey feedback indicates school nurse satisfaction with session content and the opportunity for connection (Figure 4).
- Participants rated attending DiSH live sessions, watching recorded didactic sessions on DiSH website, and accessing resources from summary emails provided after DiSH sessions as the most valuable elements of the program.
- Across DiSH programs common discussion topics include diabetes technology, remote share/follow of devices, communication, engagement in diabetes self-care and diabetes burnout, developmental considerations, legal issues, and emergencies.
- Barriers to participation in live sessions reported include time of DiSH sessions and difficulty with accessing ZOOM platform.

	Year Program Began	Average Number of Participants	Live Sessions Hosted
Wisconsin	2020	58	30
Washington	2021	108	21
Montana	2023	22	1

Figure 3. Summary of DiSH programs. Average number of participants reflects attendance at live sessions.

*"I appreciate that the sessions are recorded and available to view at a later time; sometimes the nature of school nursing does not allow for a full hour uninterrupted! The accompanying slides are also very helpful."*

*"I find the DiSH Sessions very helpful for both review and new/updated information."*

*"I want to thank you for providing these sessions. They are always so informative, but also very relaxed and helps me to feel support from others."*

*"I have really enjoyed the seminars and connecting with other nurses regarding diabetes in school. It would be nice to hear more about the technology and how to use it."*

*"I have learned so much from DiSH! I feel I am better and a lot more comfortable from attending and watching these sessions. I am able to teach families where they have gaps."*

Figure 4. Sample of School Nurse feedback about DiSH taken from completed surveys.



Figure 2. Summary of DiSH session topics. \* indicates pre-recorded "A La Carte" sessions not offered for continuing education credit.

## Conclusions

- School nurse feedback supports DiSH as an innovative program to provide ongoing, up-to-date diabetes education to School Nurses.
- The Project ECHO model of collaborative education allows for practical and relatable learning opportunities. School Nurse feedback indicates that the model also increases opportunities for connection and support between nurses and with diabetes providers.
- Despite variation in geographic location, resources, and state laws, discussions across DiSH programs often involve similar topics and scenarios.
- The DiSH model is ripe for expansion to other states and other chronic health conditions.

Scan here to access archived sessions & learn more about DiSH.

