

LOCUS Project Progress Report

Project: Wisconsin Comprehensive Advanced Life Support (CALs): Information, Outreach, and Dissemination Plan

Project Period: July 1st, 2008-August 18th, 2008

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Project Summary Information:

During the reporting period, project activities centered on completing project objectives I, II, III, IV, V. These objectives focused on building relationships with rural healthcare facilities, healthcare providers, professional organizations, and educational institutions to disseminate Wisconsin CALS Program information. Overall, the project was extremely successful. All project objectives were met or are currently ongoing. Several objectives took longer than expected due to maternity/vacation schedules, as well as the delicate nature of creating and fostering long-term relationships. In addition to the objectives in the original proposal, several additional objectives were added and met during the project period.

Summary of Activities:

Project Objectives	Progress
<p>Objective I: All Level IV Critical Access Hospitals in Wisconsin will adopt the Comprehensive Advanced Life Support Course as a standard of care. Strategy: Informational packets will be created and distributed to trauma coordinators at all Level IV Critical Access Hospitals in Wisconsin. These informational packets will contain CALS mission and vision, general course information and resources, course content, goals and objectives, information on the Benchmark Skills Lab, physician testimonial multimedia disc, as well as contact information, upcoming course dates, and enrollment forms. After information has been received, follow up will be conducted to answer questions and schedule informational sessions for hospital staff to address their concerns and meet their organizational needs. Since the CALS course is intended for teams consisting of physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, nurses and allied healthcare professionals in smaller communities, emphasis will be placed on rolling out information with a community and team-based focus.</p>	<p>A survey was sent to all Level III/Level IV trauma facilities in the state to obtain information on staffing demographics and advanced life support certification requirements. This information was obtained to gain a better understanding of obstacles facing rural trauma facilities. Furthermore, it was conducted to build relationships with rural facilities and initiate an appropriate dissemination plan. GIS pictures with the survey data were plotted, showing the need for a more functional advanced life support course in rural areas. Next, informational packets were created and distributed to all Level IV facility trauma coordinators. Follow up was conducted on an individual and group basis to answer questions about the CALS Program. In many cases, follow up information was provided that included more detailed course information, CALS comparison to ATLS/RTTDC, CALS literature, CALS recommendations, etc. Recently, The Wisconsin State Trauma Advisory Council recognized the CALS Program as a substitute for ATLS in rural Level IV facilities. DHFS agreed with this recommendation, so CALS is now a viable option for rural emergency providers. The Wisconsin CALS Program is in the process of lobbying support to open an administrative rule to make this recommendation permanent. Several legislators with strong healthcare records have been contacted, and meetings are pending. Wisconsin CALS has been working with WORH to create leave behinds for these meetings.</p>
<p>Objective II: All mid-level and physician informational partners (Wisconsin Chapter of American College of Emergency Physicians, Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians, Wisconsin Academy of Physician Assistants, Wisconsin Nurses Association) will promote, and publicize CALS information and upcoming events. Strategy: CALS is the only advanced life support course that teaches the full spectrum of emergency patient management while being recognized by all Wisconsin mid-level and physician organizations. A list of organizational informational contacts has been established for the Wisconsin Chapter of American College of Emergency Physicians, Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians, Wisconsin Academy of Physician Assistants, and the Wisconsin Nurses Association. These associates will serve as a point of contact to the respective organizational continuing education departments. CALS information will be disseminated through each professional organization to their members. Additionally, "healthcare champions" within</p>	<p>A list of organizational contacts was established for the Wisconsin Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians, Wisconsin Academy of Physician Assistants, the Wisconsin Nurses Association, and the Wisconsin Emergency Nurses Association. Each of these organizations were contacted (educational coordinators, executive directors, etc.) with regard to the Wisconsin CALS Program.</p> <p>WACEP-Wisconsin CALS is currently working with WACEP to co-sponsor a conference, CME course, or educational program. Also, Wisconsin CALS is petitioning WACEP executive director and government relations specialist to obtain a course endorsement and use of lobbyist to move forward with administrative rule change. Minnesota CALS (National CALS) has offered the use of their lobbyist to assist/guide Wisconsin CALS through this process.</p> <p>WAFP-WAFP has agreed to disseminate CALS</p>

<p>each organization will be trained and utilized to circulate information by word of mouth.</p>	<p>information and course dates to membership, along with link to Wisconsin CALS website. In addition to this, Wisconsin CALS is creating an article for the WAFP newsletter. Furthermore, WAFP has invited Wisconsin CALS to have an informational booth at their annual meeting next summer. Currently, Wisconsin CALS is petitioning WAFP executive director and board of directors to obtain a course endorsement and use of lobbyist to move forward with administrative rule change.</p> <p>WAPA-WAPA has agreed to disseminate CALS information to their membership in the form of a newsletter article. Also, they will be adding course information and dates to their website with a link to the CALS homepage. Currently, CALS is working with WAPA president to obtain a course endorsement letter. Also, WAPA's CME director has offered to work as a liaison between Wisconsin CALS and SEMPA.</p> <p>WNA-Correspondence between Wisconsin CALS and WNA CME director has shown strong interest in the CALS Program. WNA executive director is currently reviewing CALS information. In the near future, Wisconsin CALS will follow up with WNA to discuss dissemination of CALS information.</p> <p>WENA-Wisconsin CALS has been exchanging information with WENA CME director. Currently, WENA members take TNCC, a trauma course geared toward nurses. WENA has expressed interest in learning more about the CALS Program to see where it fits into their mission. WENA CME director will be auditing a CALS course before the end of the year. Follow up with WENA will be conducted soon thereafter.</p>
<p>Objective III: Form a partnership with Wisconsin Area Health Education Center System (AHEC) and develop network of rural healthcare training centers. Strategy: The Wisconsin CALS Program will form a working relationship with the Wisconsin AHEC System to improve the capacity for continuing and distance advanced life support education. Information will be disseminated through the AHEC website, as well as through other promotional materials. This partnership will improve access to quality health care by enhancing community health education resources. In addition to this, the Wisconsin CALS Program will form a network of rural healthcare training centers across the state. These centers will serve as rotating training sites for the CALS Course. They will be selected based on several factors, including proximity to critical access hospitals. In many cases, these training centers will be technical colleges and institutions of higher education that support continuing medical education. They will serve as an additional outlet for CALS Program information</p>	<p>Wisconsin CALS contacted WAHEC statewide director to discuss CALS Program. She forwarded information to each of the regional directors, and a discussion of CALS commenced at the August, 2008, WAHEC meeting. CALS information will also be presented at the next EdTRAC roundtable discussion. Wisconsin CALS is currently working with regional directors to look at opportunities to setup rural training centers across the state. In the meantime, Wisconsin CALS has created a network of training locations/conference centers that will be hosting upcoming CALS courses.</p> <p>Wisconsin CALS is currently looking into distance education opportunities with the UW-Madison SMPH CME Department. If Wisconsin CALS is able to obtain grant funding to create an online home study course component, it will serve as a pilot for the National CALS Program in Minnesota.</p>

dissemination.	
<p>Objective IV: The University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health and Medical College of Wisconsin will make CALS information available to all students interested in pursuing a career in rural medicine.</p> <p>Strategy: Rural Health Directors at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health and Medical College of Wisconsin will be contacted with regard to the Wisconsin CALS Program. CALS Course information will be disseminated through rural health programs (e.g. WARM), as well as Family and Emergency Medicine Departments. Furthermore, information will provided to rural health, family medicine, and emergency medicine interest group faculty mentors. We anticipate the CALS Program becoming an integral part of the rural health curriculum at both medical schools in the near future.</p>	<p>The University of Wisconsin-Madison SMPH has been extremely supportive and instrumental in establishing the CALS Program. The CALS Benchmark Skills is in the process of being accredited through the CME Department at UW-Madison (grant funding was obtained through UW-Madison to make this a reality), and it will be housed in the Department of Surgery. Wisconsin CALS has asked Dr. Crouse to discuss the program with the current residency director to provide another option for students doing rural rotations/internships/residencies. Moreover, Wisconsin CALS has talked with Dr. Crouse about incorporating CALS into the rural health electives as a mini-course. Also, a joint interest group meeting (RHIG, FMIG, and EMIG) is planned for the 2008-2009 school year with CALS instructors.</p> <p>The MCW has been receptive to the Wisconsin CALS Program. CALS has contacted a number of faculty members at MCW, all of whom have expressed interest. Follow up information has been sent that included more detailed course information, CALS comparison to ATLS/RTTDC, CALS literature, CALS recommendations, etc. Wisconsin CALS hopes to discuss MCW goals/initiatives for integrating the CALS Program into their medical education in the near future. A FMIG CALS noon talk is scheduled at MCW for the 2008-2009 school year.</p>
<p>Objective V: The Wisconsin Comprehensive Advanced Life Support website will be updated and linked to informational partner websites.</p> <p>Strategy: The Wisconsin CALS Program website (http://www.calsprogram.org/wisconsin.aspx) will be redesigned and updated to make it more user friendly. Supplementary program information, instructor and resource information, course dates and registration section, and contact request form will be added. Moreover, the Wisconsin CALS website will be linked to mid-level and physician professional organization websites. These changes will increase site traffic and usability.</p>	<p>The Wisconsin CALS website was updated to include program information, course dates and registration, cancellation policy, and instructor information. It is now more accessible and user-friendly. There were unforeseen glitches in creating a contact request form; however, they have been resolved. This section will be added to the CALS website in the near future. The Wisconsin CALS website has been linked to the aforementioned websites (WAPA, WACEP, WAFP). In addition to this, Wisconsin CALS is working with the RWHC, WORH, and WHA to provide information to their membership via their websites. Information should be available soon.</p>