HOW TO DRAFT A PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

Florida EMS Grants Workshop

2018

Overview

- Following the Process
- Rules and Best Practice
- Data
- Paint the Picture
- Reviewing Your Work

Following the Process

- Justification
- "I Want it!"
- You Have to Have a Problem Before You Can Propose a Solution.
- Does it Expand or Enhance?
- Are Others Working on Your Problem?
- What is Your Target Population?

Rules and Best Practice

- Collect Data Specific to the Problem
- No Replacements
- Use the Right Font
- Clearly Identify and Label Which Section You Are Writing
- All of Section 10 – 3 Pages Double Spaced
- Be Concise
- Discuss Solutions in The Proposed Solution

Data

- Use Local Data
- Use Date Ranges for Data
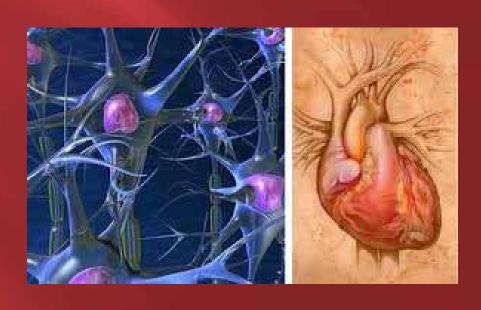- Explain the Data
- Provide the Sources of the Data

Paint the Picture With Words

- Think About Who is Reviewing Your Grant
- How Did You Paint Your Picture? Would Anyone Understand Your Problem?

Reviewing Your Work

- Does the Problem Description Match Your Solution?
- Will Data From Other Agencies/Sources Help Your Grant?
- Let Others Read Your Grant

Example

ABC EMS serves a population of XXX,XXX according to the Florida Research and Economic Database with an additional population of 70,000 transient visitors and part time residents. ABC EMS is the only transporting agency for XXXX County. According to our public education records, ABC EMS trained over 1,500 people in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) from 1/1/12 until 12/31/12. What is needed is an effort to push the benefits of CPR forward to a focused group of individuals to highlight the benefits and ease of learning of the program. One of the groups identified by the American Heart Association as twice as likely to experience cardiac arrest at home are African-Americans and their survival rates are twice as poor as for Caucasians, and this needs to be improved (Reference3). Studies show that minorities are more likely to die from heart attacks and less likely be around people that know CPR (Reference 4). CPR varies greatly by the neighborhood you are in (Reference 5). According to ABC EMS run report records (EMSTARS), of African American cardiac arrest patients, less than 20% received CPR before EMS arrival.

Example

ABC EMS responded to XX,XXX calls for service from 1/1/13 to 12/31/13 according to ABC EMS computer assisted dispatch (CAD) records and electronic patient care records. ABC EMS serves a population of XXX,XXX people according to the US Census Bureau. This program, Community Paramedic, is a new model of healthcare delivery that expands the role of paramedics that are currently experienced and in the field to include community based evaluation and treatment of patients utilizing physicians through a telemedicine connection. The idea is to utilize an EMS system that is already intimately familiar with the population of patients that are at risk and divert those patients that qualify from transport to the emergency room. Currently emergency rooms are overcrowded with non-emergent patients that could receive care either on the scene through telemedicine or through a referral to local medical clinics, physicians, or other resources. Greater utilization of existing local medical resources is a goal and lightening the load on emergency rooms is another so they can focus on emergency cases. Field evaluation is more convenient for the patient, cost effective, and provides an opportunity to educate the patient on the availability of local resources that can better deal with their ongoing medical issues. If patients have their medical needs met with appropriate medications, arranged visits with physicians, provided transportation, and other issues related to medical care, they will not call 911 to deal with non-emergent problems.

Activating the 911 system causes a response and charge from EMS, a physician, and the hospital emergency room. With this Telemedicine Paramedic Program model we will still have an EMS and physician response and charge, but we will eliminate the hospital emergency room response and charge. Using a conservative estimate of 10% of XXXXX County EMS runs this would divert X,XXX patients into this new system. With an average emergency room charge of $2, 576, this amounts to a cost reduction of $X,XXX,XXX per year. Once this model is established and accepted, many other healthcare providers and patients will want to take advantage of this cost savings model.