**Background**

The Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) awarded a three year partnership grant to:
- Viterbo University School of Nursing
- Department of Family and Community Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin.
- La Crosse, Monroe, Trempealeau, & Vernon County Health Departments,
- St. Clare Health Mission

Project purpose is to reduce morbidity and mortality related to chronic disease in the population of uninsured and underinsured citizens.

**Objectives**

- Strengthen and expand collaborative partnerships to include new partners and new project sites in each of four target Western Wisconsin counties
- Increase the use of community resources, the number of individuals served and the number of students actively involved in health promotion and disease prevention.
- Provide accessible chronic disease health promotion and support services for the uninsured and underinsured in four Western Wisconsin counties.

**Methods**

Grant activities conducted on a staggered time line in four counties by the Viterbo senior level BSN students enrolled in a Public Health Nursing course under the direction of the Project Director, and community partners.

**Project Planning:**
- Created Chronic Disease Community Coalitions in four counties

**Community Assessment:**
- Conducted Chronic Disease Needs Assessments in four counties
- Data Analyzed
- Community Coalition members in 4 counties reviewed assessment data & used Nominal Group Process to identify 15 priority health needs from the data
- Community Coalition recommended interventions

**Implementation**
- Piloted interventions & evaluated outcomes of pilot
- Institutionalizing Community Coalitions and Interventions

**Results**

- Four Chronic Disease Community Coalitions have 108 members from a variety of disciplines including citizens
- 311 Face to face questionnaires administered in 4 counties
- 28 citizens participated in 6 Focus Groups in 4 counties
- 18 nurses from 4 Health Departments and 3 faculty mentored 148 student nurses in grant field projects
- 3 Wellness Clinic interventions piloted & provided health screening & education for 141 clients
- 1 Health Communication Project designed Wellness Resource Guide & Website

**Conclusion**

This project provides a roadmap of a successful commitment to partnership principles impacting the health of underserved populations.