WILLIAMSON COUNTY AND CITIES HEALTH DISTRICT
NEWS RELEASE

March 25, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Williamson County Observes American Diabetes Association Alert Day

Williamson County recognizes and supports American Diabetes Association Alert Day on Tuesday, March 25th, 2014. The “Alert Day” is a one day wake-up call encouraging all citizens to get tested to determine their risk for developing Type 2 Diabetes and start living a healthy and active lifestyle. Diabetes is a chronic disease in which the body is unable to produce insulin or use it properly. Without insulin, the body cannot take glucose from food and use it for energy. Diabetes cannot be cured but it can be managed, especially if it is diagnosed and treated early. In Williamson County, 23,000 people have diabetes. WCCHD Deputy Director Cynthia Guerrero says, “Diabetes is a serious disease that affects 7 percent of Williamson County’s population. Promoting diabetes awareness through the American Diabetes Association Alert Day is a great opportunity to ask those at risk to get tested and learn more about diabetes.”

According to the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) survey conducted in the fall of 2013, chronic disease, including diabetes, was listed as one of the Top Five health concerns by Williamson County residents. The WilCo Wellness Alliance is addressing this concern through a variety of initiatives, outreach, and collaborations with other health partners. For example, the Alliance, a countywide coalition of school systems, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and healthcare systems advocate supporting local policies and environmental change that promote healthy behaviors, preventing chronic diseases like diabetes, and creating sustainable community change. The Integrated Care Collaboration (ICC), an integral partner of the Alliance, will provide services to WCCHD in its DSRIP Project to enhance the collection, interpretation, and/or use of Race Ethnicity and Language Data (REAL). All of the DSRIP projects are designed to measure the outcomes for diabetic related services. Together, the ICC and the WCCHD will work with groups and organizations in Williamson County as well as hospitals, community clinics, and community health centers outside the county to provide patients with a medical home, reduce emergency room visits, and provide training and support to other entities participating in Williamson County’s healthcare delivery system.

To learn more about diabetes and the services WCCHD provides, visit your public health department website at www.wcchd.org or call 512-248-3252.

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