

SW WASHINGTON

HAI TASK FORCE



THE BOARD OF CLARK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS RECOGNIZES SW WASHINGTON HAI ...

The Board of Clark County Commissioners recognized SW Washington HAI Taskforce for their collaborative efforts for improving the overall health in Clark County on May 28, 2014.

The Southwest Washington HAI Group began in the fall of 2012. The HAI has worked on a wide variety of infection control and prevention issues facing health care centers today. Topics that HAI has tackled include; Noro Virus & other forms of viral gastro-enteritis, influenza, C-difficile, and Aspiration Pneumonia to name a few. The goal of HAI Task Force is to decrease the incidence of health care-associated infections and improve health care outcomes for patients in Clark County. Participants in this group come from a wide range of health-care providers. The group has been a model for other HAI groups in Oregon & Washington.

Since the inception of HAI, Clark County has seen an increase in healthcare worker influenza vaccinations. In the influenza season of 2012-2013 healthcare providers were vaccinated at 87%. In 2013-2014, that number grew to over 90%. vaccinated This is largely due to the efforts of the group to encourage and provide influenza vaccinations for staff.

The group put measures into place to decrease C-difficile in healthcare centers. They offered free training sessions to healthcare workers on prevention, treatment



May 28, 2014, HAI Task Force recognized by Board of Commissioners

& containment of c-difficile. Standard protocols were created and adopted by participating centers. A steady decline of facility-acquired c-difficile has been noted since these efforts have been initiated.

Open communication & collaboration among these providers has led to better

continuity of care, improved patient outcomes and a healthier community in Southwest Washington. The HAI meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday at 2:00 pm, locations vary. All healthcare providers in the community are welcome & encouraged to participate. For more information, email: swesterdahl@prestigecare.com.

JUNE MEETING- "TRAIN THE TRAINER" INSERVICE ON ASPIRATION PNEUMONIA

- Join us on June 25th at 2:00 pm for our monthly meeting and a "train the trainer" inservice on aspiration pneumonia at Cascade Park Care Center. 801 SE Park Crest Ave. Vancouver, WA 98683 (360) 260-2200
- Please bring your caregivers and nursing staff for this educational opportunity.

Please visit our web-site for more information about our group, tools to identify, prevent & treat health care associated infections & much more!

HAI Home Site:

<http://www.clark.wa.gov/public-health/hai/index.html>