



**ECCU 2017 CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION • A CALL TO ACTION...AND ALL THAT JAZZ!**

# **Project ADAM: Preparing Schools for a Cardiac Emergency**

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# Presenter Disclosure Information

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Project ADAM: Preparing Schools for a Cardiac  
Emergency

## **FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE:**

- No relevant financial relationship (s) exist

## **UNLABELED/UNAPPROVED USES DISCLOSURE:**

- Nothing to disclose

# Background: Scope of the Problem

This audience knows the data well but suffice it to say:

- There are a lot of kids and adults in a school on any given day

Project ADAM was born out of a student's death with the goal of community action to prevent sudden cardiac death in schools

# Project ADAM's Role

# Systematic Perspective

- Would like for all schools to be Heart Safe
- Safe for kids & adults with known heart problems (structural disease, arrhythmias)
- And, safe for those with unknown, undiagnosed heart conditions
- Our role is to provide education, resources, oversight, collaboration, encouragement ...

# Project ADAM Heart Safe School

1. Emergency response plan and team in place
2. Conducting drills
3. Available, accessible AEDs
4. An educated community

# 1. Response plan and team

- Identify a site coordinator
- Pull together a response team (school nurses, athletic trainers, teachers, etc)
- Medical contact/director through local EMS, firefighters, Project ADAM, etc
- Written, individualized plan for each school

## 2. Conducting drills

- “Practice makes perfect”
- Muscle memory
- Stressful but important
- Essential, as the frequency of events will be low but need for timely action is high



# 3. AEDs – placement and funding

- Recommend an AED within 3 minutes of “coverage zone”
- Need clear signage
- Funding (past/present) – donations from local groups, fundraisers, corporate giving
- Funding (present/future) – needs to be a budget line item for purchase, disposables, maintenance, and replacement

# 4. Community Education

- Despite having a response team in place the real first responders are students, teachers, etc.
- CPR-AED instruction as a graduation requirement will help
- Kids are always teaching their parents!

# West Bend School District 2017

# West Bend School District

- 7000 students
- 700 staff
- 11 schools
- 2 district nurses
- 9 school nurses

# The journey begins

- Two district nurses saw a need for emergency response teams
- Most schools had an AED but no emergency response protocols in place
- Met with their superintendent who agreed with training and developing teams
- Next step: meet with the individual schools

# Working with individual schools

- Successful approach involved collaboration with schools
- This partnership strengthened by idea of protecting medical privacy during an event
- Collected input from schools and formed a district-wide protocol with shared language for emergency medical response (vs. fire, active shooter, etc.)

# School and Systems meet

- District nurses attend larger district and state educational meetings
- Connect with Project ADAM at both
- Medical director role defined
- Oversight with drills
- 1<sup>st</sup> two schools are designated Heart Safe and four more will achieve it soon!

# Lessons learned

- Schools and systems (state, district, Project ADAM, etc) need to work together
- Look for a local school champion at district or state training sessions (and for PA provide education about becoming Heart Safe)
- Momentum is such that the movement is no longer for the motivated few but rather a standard for all schools
- Stu Berger: “We’re not done yet!”





# Thank you!

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