

July 2014

Western Maryland AHEC and AFYA, Inc. Organize Training Workshop for AHRQ's Pilot Shared Decision Making Curriculum



On Saturday, July 26, Western Maryland Area Health Education Center, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and AFYA Consulting, collaborated to pilot AHRQ's train-the-trainer Shared Decision Making Workshop for health professionals. The all-day training session was graciously hosted by the Allegany County Health Department.

The SHARE workshop, presented by master trainer Jann Keenan, introduces a five-step process that trains practitioners to engage their patients in the shared decision making process by exploring and comparing the benefits, harms, and risks of each health care option through meaningful dialogue about what matters most to the patient. According to the AHRQ training manual, shared decision making occurs "when a health care provider and a patient work together to make a health care decision that is best for the patient."

The 18 attendees participated in active discussion and role-playing scenarios to gain valuable insight on ways to implement the SHARE approach in their own practices to help improve health outcomes, as well as learned simple, practical ways to use patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR) to support shared decision making. Participants were also given access to a range of free tools and resources from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's Effective Health Care program.

The workshop curriculum and material will be revised based on feedback from the professionals attending the pilot program. AHRQ and AFYA Inc. seek to increase the number of qualified trainers in the region and offer more sessions in the near future.

For more information on Western Maryland AHEC programs, call 301-777-9150, connect on Facebook, or visit the website at www.wmahec.org.