

(7) CURRENTLY, THE CHALLENGE EXISTS TO ENSURE DELIVERY OF EFFECTIVE, BUT OFTEN UNDERUTILIZED, INTERVENTIONS THAT ARE NECESSARY IN THE PREVENTION OR REDUCTION OF ARTHRITIS-RELATED PAIN AND DISABILITY;

(8) THE LARGE QUANTITY OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND PROGRAMS ABOUT ARTHRITIS REMAIN INADEQUATELY DISSEMINATED AND ARE INSUFFICIENT IN ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF SPECIFIC DIVERSE POPULATIONS AND OTHER UNDERSERVED GROUPS;

(9) THE ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION, THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, AND THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND TERRITORIAL HEALTH OFFICIALS HAVE LED THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGY, THE NATIONAL ARTHRITIS ACTION PLAN, TO ENSURE THE DELIVERY OF EFFECTIVE, BUT OFTEN UNDERUTILIZED INTERVENTIONS THAT ARE NECESSARY IN THE PREVENTION OR REDUCTION OF ARTHRITIS-RELATED PAIN AND DISABILITY; AND

(10) EDUCATING THE PUBLIC AND HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT THE STATE ABOUT ARTHRITIS IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE AND IS IN EVERY RESPECT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL RESIDENTS OF THE STATE.

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THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBTITLE ARE TO:

(1) CREATE AND FOSTER A STATEWIDE PROGRAM THAT PROMOTES PUBLIC AWARENESS AND INCREASES KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE CAUSES OF ARTHRITIS, THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT, EFFECTIVE PREVENTION STRATEGIES, AND PAIN PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT;

(2) ENHANCE UNDERSTANDING OF ARTHRITIS BY DISSEMINATING TO PATIENTS, HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, AND THE PUBLIC:

(I) EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS;

(II) INFORMATION ON RESEARCH RESULTS;

(III) INFORMATION ON SERVICES PROVIDED; AND

(IV) STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTION AND CONTROL;

(3) ESTABLISH A SOLID SCIENTIFIC BASE OF KNOWLEDGE ON THE PREVENTION OF ARTHRITIS AND RELATED DISABILITY THROUGH SURVEILLANCE, EPIDEMIOLOGY, AND PREVENTION RESEARCH;

(4) UTILIZE EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING RESOURCES AND SERVICES DEVELOPED BY ORGANIZATIONS WITH APPROPRIATE EXPERTISE AND KNOWLEDGE OF ARTHRITIS AND USE AVAILABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE;

(5) EVALUATE THE NEED FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF EXISTING COMMUNITY-BASED ARTHRITIS SERVICES;