A RESPONSE TO PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE IN THE ELDER MUSLIM COMMUNITY

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What I Did

• An awareness seminar
• About prescription drug abuse
• In a local Mosque
• Addressing prescription drug abuse among the elderly Muslim population

Why I Did It

• Pain Medications include opioids that cause addiction.
• Those who struggle with addiction seemed unable to acknowledge it.
• The community struggled with talking about the issue.
• Over 28,000 deaths had occurred because of pain medication and heroin addictions in 2014.
• President Obama had set aside new resources to help with prescription drug abuse.

Who I Worked With

• Two local social workers
• A non-profit co-founder and local healthcare worker
• A pharmacist
• A local church director
• The local imam

What We Accomplished

CHANGE FOR ME

• I learned to see people’s hearts instead of just their religious beliefs.
• I learned to listen to the concerns of others.
• I realized that when we focus only on our pain, we can’t see the pain of others.

CHANGE FOR PARTICIPANTS

• They became more aware of the issue.
• They asked for more resources like this.

CHANGE FOR THE PROBLEM

• We have been invited to present in other communities.
• A new seminar combines pain medication addiction awareness with awareness of depression issues.
• We started looking for more sustainable care plans, because acute care was not enough.

Key References