RHIP Final Mini-Grant Report for St. Charles Health System "Purchase Frio Insulin Cooling Cases"

Reviewed by the Promote Enhanced Physical Health Workgroup

Summary of Results:

- We purchased 50 FRIO insulin wallets to distribute to patients admitted who required the use of insulin and experienced unstable housing.
- We distributed all 50 of them to inpatients across the four hospitals (Bend, Redmond, Prineville, Madras).
- Last summer prior to the heat wave several were distributed to each emergency department manager for them to distribute as needed.
- This small thing can have big impacts for those living without consistent electricity and refrigeration.
- Everyone that received a Frio insulin wallet was happy to have it.

Story:

We had a young man living with type 1 diabetes who was admitted last summer in the Redmond hospital with DKA (diabetic ketoacidosis). DKA occurs when not enough insulin is present in the body, which was the case with this patient. He was not from the area and was stranded here until he could find a way to get back to Colorado. He frequently lived on the streets or couch surfed. We gave him a Frio insulin wallet to store his insulin in and he was very excited. He'd heard about them before but didn't have the money to buy one.