ORPRN E-News - June 2016

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RURAL CLERKSHIP

June 3rd was the final presentation from third-year OHSU medical students who participated in the Rural Community Health Clerkship sponsored by the Oregon Area Health Education Center (AHEC). The AHEC Program Office, with facilitation from the AHEC Centers statewide, has assisted with the rural rotation placements of third-year medical students since 1992 with the formation of the Primary Care Clerkship. The clerkship was a 5-week rotation where students were placed in underserved populations and supervised by a primary care physician experienced in internal medicine, pediatrics or family medicine. Since its inception, 2,529 medical or health professional students have participated in the program in 57 different communities working with 255 preceptors. Drs. LJ Fagnan, Dale Harris and Michelle Petrofes were among the first preceptors as family physicians at Dunes Family Health Care in Reedsport. Among the other long-term preceptors were family physician, Rick Wopat in Lebanon and pediatrician, Sandra Dunbrasky in Ontario. Long-term continuous educational sites by city location include Baker City, Burns, Coos Bay, Florence, John Day, Klamath Falls, Lebanon, Ontario, Reedsport, Tillamook, and Warm Springs. Over the past 24 years, the Rural Community Health Clerkship has been reported by medical students as the most highly rated educational experience in their four-year program.
ORPRN staff has served as evaluators of the students' final presentations since ORPRN's inception in 2002. One of the last presentations given on April 29th was from Claire Sahlberg. Claire presented on health literacy, readability and diabetes, and shared a handout she created for her preceptor Dr. Dawna-Marie Townsend Fixott at the Redmond Family Medicine. Claire emphasized why it's necessary to provide easy to understand and clear patient education tools, and demonstrated how to measure the readability of your documents. View her entire presentation and handout example to learn more.

RECOGNITIONS

Liska Havel

ORPRN is proud to celebrate Liska Havel's graduation from OHSU this June, with a dual MD/MPH degree. Liska is a native rural Oregonian who grew up in Willamina, where her parents still live on their tree farm and run a family forestry business. Liska has been interested in returning to rural Oregon as a health care provider for many years, and participated in OHSU's rural scholars program as well as the primary care loan forgiveness program through the state of Oregon.

Liska conducted a rural general surgery research study through ORPRN and the Oregon Office of Rural Health, utilizing the Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems data as well as in-person interviews with rural hospital administrators. The study examined the proportion of rural Oregonians undergoing a non-emergent general surgery procedure that travelled to an urban hospital (bypassed their rural hospital), and the descriptive differences between those who did versus did not bypass their rural hospital. This study furthers the description of rural general surgery patterns and factors associated with bypass of rural hospitals, which is anticipated to be of use to rural hospital administrators and for policy considerations in the future.

Elizabeth Waddell, PhD

Congratulations to Liz Waddell (pictured center), ORPRN’s Director of Health Disparities Research, who was a Faculty Senate Awards Finalist for the School of Public Health's Excellence Award. The award recognizes contributions made by a faculty member who is producing tangible evidence of excellence in service, leadership, teaching, collaboration or research.

William Irvine, MD

On May 20th the OHSU School of Medicine presented the rural Community Preceptor Award to William Irvine, MD, Affiliate Instructor with the Department of Family Medicine during the Honors and Awards Ceremony. This is the 8th year Dr. Irvine has been a Preceptor for OHSU, and one of his current partners rotated with him when she was in medical school 6 years ago. The Community Preceptor Award is made by the Dean, and recognizes a physician or physician group that has demonstrated outstanding dedication to the education of medical students in the urban and rural setting.

PROJECT UPDATES

Behavioral Health Home Learning Collaborative Years 1-3

Adults with serious mental illness (SMI) or substance use disorders (SUD) experience poor health...
outcomes including uncontrolled chronic conditions and premature death, and are less likely to access primary care. On average, SMI populations die 25-30 years earlier than the general population, due to high blood pressure, high cholesterol, heart disease and diabetes (Parks 2006, Olfson et al 2015). The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and ORPRN are conducting a Behavioral Health Home Learning Collaborative (BHH LC), promoting integration of physical health services into behavioral health settings.

Over the last two years, 13 BHH LC agencies received twice-monthly practice coaching from ORPRN PERCs, attended in-person learning sessions, webinars, and care management training. Agencies developed quality improvement projects focused on tracking CMS Adult Core Quality Measures.

At the end of 2015, approximately 2,500 patients received primary care in BHH LC clinics. Five agencies have full-time co-located services, 3 part-time services, and 5 coordinated services. Analysis indicates co-location facilitates integration, but is not sufficient or required. Primary care and mental health staff must be committed to integration, adaptable to new workflows, and communicate frequently. Cross-training of staff, care management, and robust ancillary services to provide care to complex patients is crucial. Lack of shared EHRs is a large barrier, and panel sizes must be sufficient to cover cost of care. Payment models likely need adjustment for practices serving this complex population.

During Year 3 of the project, BHH LC will assess the impact and value of behavioral health homes on patient outcomes, and ORPRN PERCs will work with BHH LC agencies to collect data on current SMI/SUD patient outcomes for three CMS Adult Quality Measures: hypertension, diabetes and BMI assessment.

For more information about the Collaborative contact Elizabeth Needham-Waddell, ORPRN PI; Sonya Howk, ORPRN Research Associate; or Rita Moore, OHA Grant Manger.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Knight Cancer Institute Community Partnership Program Grant Information Sessions

- One hour, interactive sessions will provide details about the program's mission, application process, timelines, and resources available to all applicants and grantees
- June 28-30, 2016 Southern Oregon, multiple locations
- July 11-14, 2016 Eastern Oregon, multiple locations
- Register Here

Using Telehealth to Deliver Diabetes Self-Management Education Webinar

- Tuesday, June 21, 2016 1:00-2:30 pm ET
- For clinicians and administrators interested in managing people with diabetes in rural and frontier areas
- Register Here