

ABSTRACT: 2018 ELAM Institutional Action Project

Project Title: Designing a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in partnership with the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Center (CU-AMC)

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Topic Category: Clinical

Background/Significance of project: CU-AMC is located in Aurora Colorado, a diverse community of 350,000. The median income is \$28,000 and the community reports a 15.3% poverty rate. The CU-AMC affiliated Hospital provides inpatient, specialty and emergency care to over 20,000 individuals without primary care from the community annually. While there are FQHC's in the vicinity, only 15% of the Medicaid and uninsured patients in the five ZIP codes surrounding the Campus currently have a source of primary care. CU-AMC has a well-developed interprofessional education (IPE) program including dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, physician assistant, and physical therapy. While the IPE program has excelled in preclinical education, providing robust clinical interprofessional collaborative practice learning experiences remains challenging. Addition of an interprofessional FQHC will address these needs by dramatically increase access to primary care, provide innovative clinical education experiences for our students, and ultimately improve the health of this underserved population.

Purpose/Objective: The challenge of expanding primary care for the large underserved population of Aurora has been limited by the low reimbursement rates through traditional Medicaid. The opportunity to partner with a FQHC will create a reimbursement environment where this population could be cared for at rates closer to cost. This creates a win – win situation for the education, clinical care, research and community outreach missions of the Campus. Providing integrated, comprehensive primary care to this population promises to improve health outcomes while reducing costs and unnecessarily utilization. The impact of this collaboration will inform the future of healthcare as we both model an effective academic medical center - community partnership and shape the next generation of healthcare providers and team members. This collaborative endeavor will also create opportunities for research in health equity, health care delivery and health professions education.

Methods/Approach/Evaluation Strategy:

- Identify stakeholders through an iterative process of networking, individual and group meetings (complete)
- Obtain commitment from stakeholders through meetings and negotiations culminating in a written partnership proposal (complete)
- Create process to execute project that entailed bimonthly planning meetings through 3/31/18 then a monthly stakeholder meeting, monthly interprofessional education planning meeting, and twice monthly operations meetings ongoing (in progress)
- Future steps include developing a health equity research enterprise and creating pipeline programs

Outcomes/Results: Build an interprofessional FQHC through a model collaboration between existing community health networks and CU-AMC.

Conclusion/Statement of Potential Impact: The goal is to marry an innovative education program and clinical operation with a research and public health infrastructure.

- Improve the health of the community through expanding access to primary and specialty care, and addressing the social determinants of health
- Develop an innovative interprofessional model of care such that learners have a richer education and are better prepared to solve the healthcare problems of society in interprofessional teams as they embark on their careers
- Gain national recognition for CU-AMC as an innovator in IPE and comprehensive care of underserved population