

TexLa Telehealth Conference

Tulane University Workforce Development

LASOR Presentation -

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May 23, 2019



Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Burden and Opportunity in Louisiana

- **460 Providers Have Received Their DEA Waiver to Prescriber MAT but only 80 Are Actively Using It**
 - **This limits Access to Timely, MAT Specialty Care**
- **The Tulane University Workforce Development Program will serve as the LASOR learning and mentoring network to exponentially increase practice's workforce capacity to provide MAT specialty care by moving knowledge rather than moving patients**
 - **This intervention will exponentially increase access to MAT care network**
- **The Tulane University Workforce Development Program will use a blended learning approach of live online (Project ECHO) and in person(Academic Detailing) education sessions**



Common Reasons Why Providers Don't Prescribe MAT

- **Lack of Training in Medical School and Residency**
 - Did not get any instruction about addiction or treating it
- **Getting The Waiver**
 - Opt in message is sent versus other diseases
- **Fear of the Unknown**
 - Opioid Use Disorder patients have other physical, psychological and social issues – depression, anxiety, unemployment, etc.
- **Stigma of Opioid Use**
 - Some believe addiction is a personal failure, not as a brain disorder requiring treatment



Method & Approach – Leverage Telehealth

Project ECHO (Extension For Community Healthcare Outcomes)

- Is a telehealth modality utilizing, video-conferencing technology to establish a virtual “knowledge network” between a “hub” (team of inter-disciplinary specialists located at the Tulane medical center) and multiple “spokes” (PCPs and specialists throughout Louisiana communities) for training and mentoring.
- The Tulane University Workforce Development Program will recruit eligible providers to participate in weekly learning sessions on the recommended topics.
- The live education sessions will be designed to extend specialty care to rural patients utilizing videoconferencing for area providers



Method & Approach- In Person Support

Academic Detailing

- An evidence-based model that provides academic detailing; utilizing specially trained clinical educators who will meet one-on-one with physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants (at their practice locations)
- Will discuss best practices and corresponding Project ECHO topics as well as improve their service range in MAT
- Tulane University will partner with Boston based, Alosa Health (Harvard University Affiliated) to deploy academic detailing
- Alosa Health pioneered the Academic Detailing concept



Method & Approach

- **Direct support from Tulane specialists to Louisiana PCPs on patient cases (de-identified).**
- **Increased knowledge for PCPs through shared case-based learning and mentorship**
- **Assistance with patient treatment plan development and monitoring.**
- **24/7 access via a dedicated website that provides information and resources to support providers and care teams across the state. Indexed recordings of past Project ECHO sessions**
- **Virtual access to telehealth, specialty E-consultations. PCP's will use a secure HIPAA compliant electronic communication for questions/concerns to receive advice from Tulane specialists in-between Project ECHO sessions and Academic Detailing**
- **Opportunity to earn free continuing education credits (CEUs) for participation**
- **Opportunities to participate in research are provided, but are not mandatory**



Sample of Education Topics

- Management of acute pain in primary care;
- Pain & opioid related needs of specialist (e.g. orthopedics, ER physicians, dentist);
- Dealing with chronic pain
- OUD patient identification and
- Caring for patients, such as MAT vs specialist referral



Fellowship in Addiction Medicine

This will help address the severe shortage of physicians trained the in clinical management of addiction.

- **Accredited in July 2018**
- **The program is open to physicians who have completed training in Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Preventive Medicine, and Psychiatry.**
- **After completing the one-year fellowship the physician will be eligible to become board certified in the new subspecialty of Addiction Medicine.**
- **The program is the result of a collaboration of Tulane University School of Medicine, the New Orleans Veterans Hospital and several local private addiction medicine treatment programs.**
- **As a result, at the end of the fellowship, the physician will have experienced the appropriate management of addiction medicine patients of all ages, sex, social, economic, and educational levels.**



Desired Outcomes

- Accelerate and increase in Medication Assisted Treatment: DATA-2000 buprenorphine-waived prescribers, especially in underserved areas
- Program-level outcomes, such as numbers and types of providers served, participation rates, location of spokes, and hours of CMEs granted
- Provider-level outcomes, such as changes in provider knowledge, self-efficacy, attitudes, satisfaction, and decision making
- Patient-engagement outcomes such as health literacy, care management, and medication compliance
- System-level outcomes to be developed and enhanced, such as changes in wait times for care, inappropriate referrals for hospitalizations, emergency department (ED) visits, and travel costs
- Management of acute pain in primary care
- Pain & opioid related needs of specialist
- OUD patient identification
- Caring for patients, such as MAT vs specialist referral



Tulane University Team

Clinical Team

Program Medical Director: John W. Thompson, Jr, MD

Behavioral Addiction Psychiatrist: John W. Thompson, Jr, MD

Licensed Clinical Social Worker: TBD

Pharmacist: TBD

Nurse Practitioner: Claudia Achoja, MSN. FNP-C

Primary Care Physician and Addiction Medicine Fellow: George Singletary, MD

Administrative Team

Project Director: Kevin Massey

Director of Program Evaluation/Development: JoAnn Andrews

ECHO Manager: Claudia Achoja, MSN. FNP-C

Program Support: Marcus Vizzutti

Alosa Health: Academic Detailing (outreach & education)

Project ECHO: University of New Mexico Support Services

