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## The UMMS Community Engagement Committee

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**Presenter Information**

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**Keywords**

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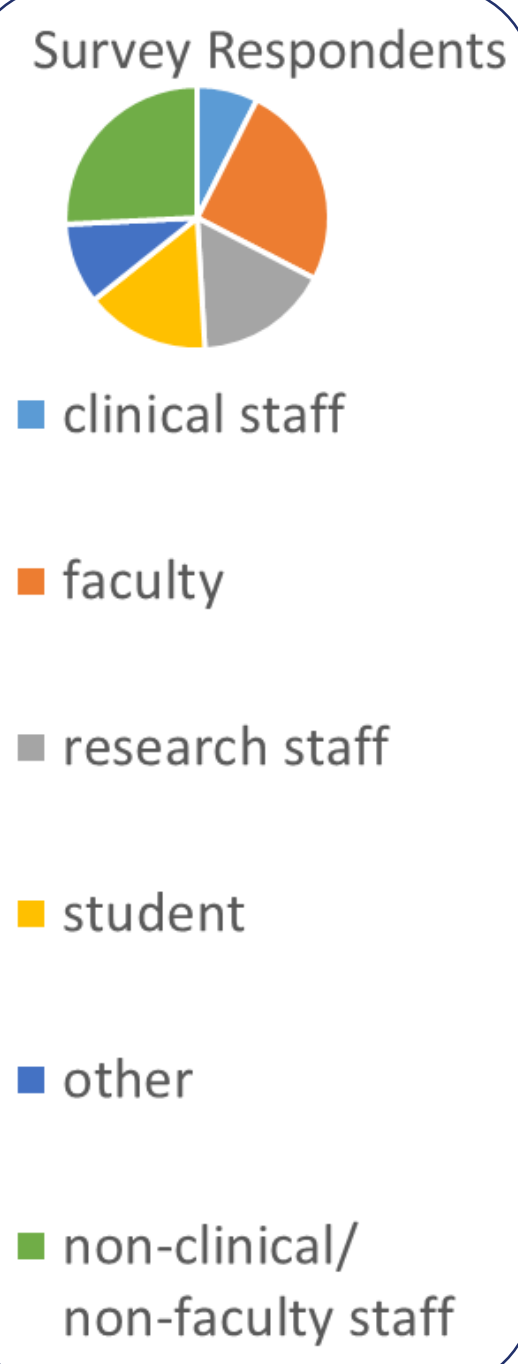
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## Community Engagement Committee (CEC)

- Mission: to promote inter-professional community engagement focused on teaching and service. In teaching, we advance service learning; in service, we advance action that responds to community-identified need.
- Diverse membership: faculty, staff and students from across the School of Medicine, Graduate Nursing School and Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.
- Guidance and support for community engaged service, learning and research to the medical school and greater Worcester communities.

## 2017 online survey of UMMS community engagement\* (N=326)



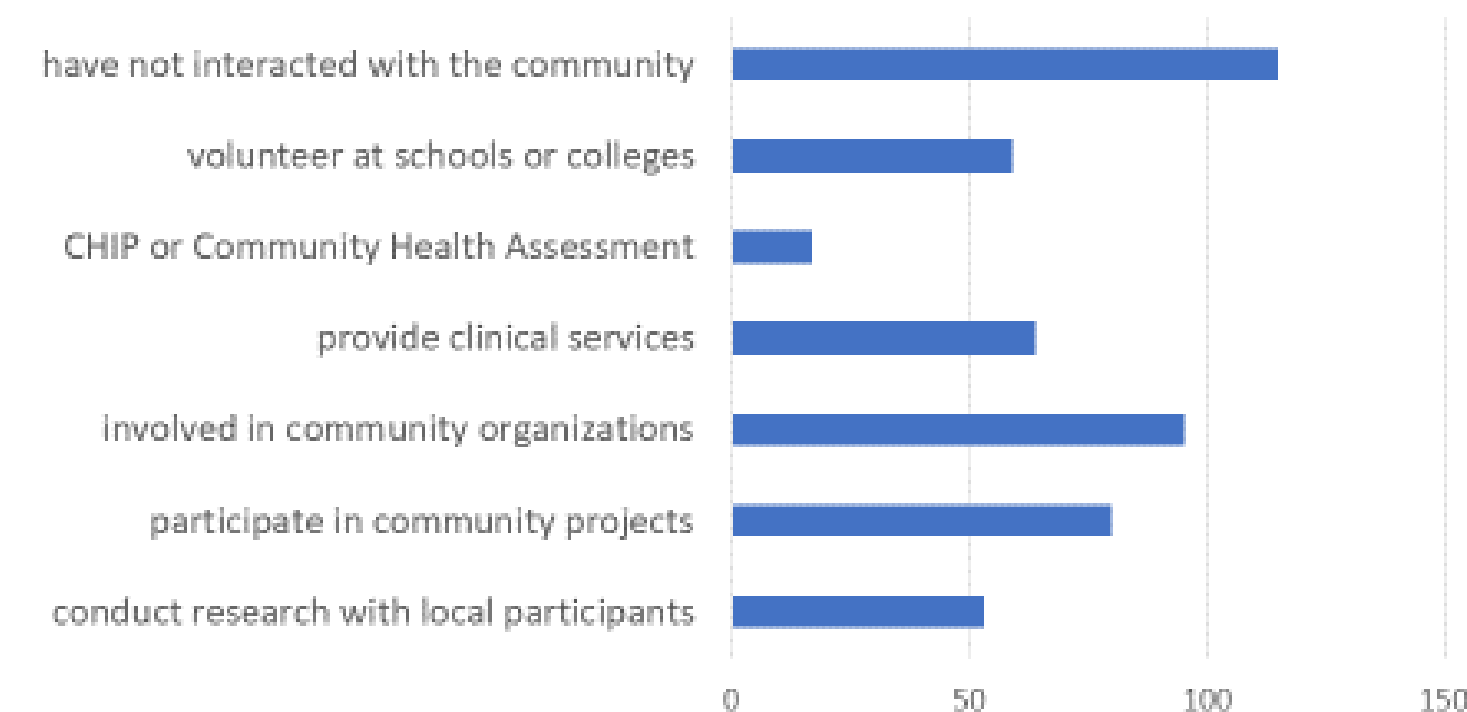
### What barriers have you encountered in engaging with community organizations in the area?

1. No time
2. Unaware of opportunities
3. Not sure how to get started or what the needs of organizations are
4. Lack of institutional support
5. Distance
6. No contact at or relationship with organization
7. Unfamiliar with community

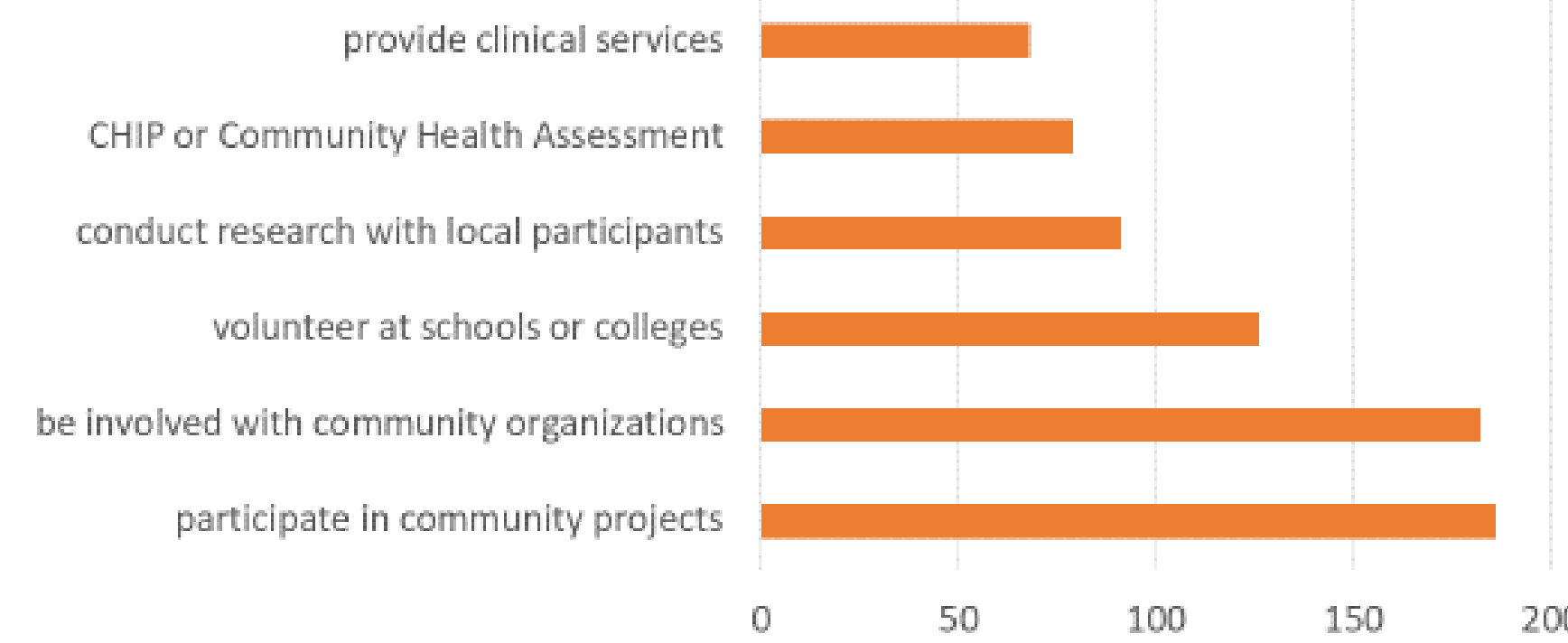
### What have you found to be helpful as you've interacted with community organizations in the area?

1. Understanding priorities & needs of organizations
2. Institutional support and coordination
3. Personal connection with organization or someone from the organization
4. Promotion/awareness of opportunities
5. Community interest in engaging

### In your professional role, how have you interacted with the local community?



### How would you like to interact with organizations in the area?



\*All survey questions allowed multiple responses.

## How do we take action to address needs in our region? The Worcester Community Health Improvement Plan(CHIP)

Created by multiple community agencies and stakeholders, the 2016 Greater Worcester CHIP is a roadmap to make Worcester the healthiest region in New England by 2020. The Coalition for a Greater Healthy Worcester oversees its implementation, and invites you to join - CHIP IN!  
<http://www.healthygreaterworcester.org>

### Conveners

- The Worcester Division of Public Health (WDPH), lead agency of the Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance (CMRPHA)
- Fallon Health
- UMass Memorial Medical Center

### 9 Priority Areas

Racism & Discrimination	Substance Use	Access to Care
Mental Health	Economic Opportunity	Cultural Responsiveness
Access to Healthy Food	Physical Activity	Safety

## Martin Luther King Semester of Service Student Awards



- 3 to 5 innovative community service projects each year, developed by UMMS students with local community partners.
- Student proposals are judged by a panel of academic and community members involved in community service and service-learning. Selected projects receive \$500.
- Projects are funded by the UMMS Diversity and Inclusion Office, continuing a 2010 Corporation for National and Community Service grant.
- Photo at left: MLK Semester of Service Award 2018 winners with program director Heather-Lyn Haley, PhD, (far left) and School of Medicine Dean Terence Flotte, MD, (far right).

## A (true!) story of building engagement

Tina, a CEC member, is the project coordinator for the Central MA Tobacco-Free Community Partnership, a program of the UMMS Department of Psychiatry. Suzanne and Heather, CEC members and UMMS faculty in Family Medicine and Community Health, oversee the Population Health Clerkship program for graduate nursing and second year medical students.

Tina attends meetings of the Joint Coalition on Health.

The Joint Coalition on Health (JCOH) is a group of organizations and individuals working collaboratively as catalysts for change and advocates for the underserved to improve the health of everyone in North Central Massachusetts.

Tina invites Susan, a JCOH leader, to meet with the UMMS Community Engagement Committee.

### Population Clerkship 2017

- Team of 6 UMMS students led by JCOH
- Quantitative data about opioid use
- Qualitative interviews of people affected by the opioid crisis
- Informed strategic planning and next steps
- JCOH emphasized "how powerful this clerkship was for our community and how it has continued to reap benefits."



UMMS students with Lisa Parsons (outreach worker), Jen Cruickshank (Director of Behavioral Health at CHC), Susan Buchholz (JCOH leader).

### Community response:

- JCOH was "unsure if individuals would want to talk with us"
- More people signed up to be interviewed than could be accommodated.
- Many "told the students how much it meant to them to be asked for their input. For many, if not most, it was the first time anyone had ever asked them for their insights about anything."

### Benefits for the students as told to the JCOH:

- "... learned so much from speaking with these individuals."
- "This experience significantly altered their previously held beliefs and perspective on the disease of addiction and that it changed who they would become as physicians."

### The Opioid Project: Changing Perceptions through Art and Storytelling

- Art exhibit and event with speakers and music, in February 2018 at the Fitchburg Art Museum
- Building on a connection of one of the UMMS students.
- Attended by nearly 150 people including community leaders
- "As a result of the event, we have been inundated with requests from people who want to further explore and build on the healing power of art, storytelling and music." (Susan Buchholz, JCOH coordinator and co-chair)

## Connect!

- **Be part of the Worcester CHIP!** <http://www.healthygreaterworcester.org>
- **UMMS community members:** send information on your community engaged activity to the committee for our data bank! Send your ideas! Join the committee! [Gladys.mcrell@umassmed.edu](mailto:Gladys.mcrell@umassmed.edu)
- **Community groups, organizations and individuals:** explore collaboration and partnership opportunities with us! [Gladys.mcrell@umassmed.edu](mailto:Gladys.mcrell@umassmed.edu)