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Presentation Descriptions: 2020 Community Engagement and Research Symposium

Community Engagement and Research Symposium

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**CENTER FOR CLINICAL AND
TRANSLATIONAL SCIENCE**

9th Annual Community Engagement and Research Symposium

Friday, March 20, 2020; 8:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Albert Sherman Center

University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA

PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

Keynote	9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
<p style="text-align: center;">Peter D. Friedmann, MD, MPH, DFASAM, FACP Community Research to Address the Opioid Crisis <i>Albert Sherman Center, Lecture Hall/Auditorium (2nd floor) AS-2102</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chief Research Officer and Endowed Chair for Clinical Research, Baystate Health Associate Dean for Research and Professor of Medicine University of Massachusetts Medical School – Baystate Professor of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences, UMMS</p>	
Breakout Session One	10:15 AM – 11:15 AM
<p style="text-align: center;">Session 1A A criminal justice-engaged research collaborative: Findings and lessons learned from Western Massachusetts <i>(Medical School, Amphitheater II, S6-102)</i></p> <p>Moderator/Presenter: Elizabeth Evans, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Health Promotion and Policy, School of Public Health and Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts Amherst</p> <p>Presenter(s): Ed Hayes, Assistant Superintendent, Franklin County Sheriff's Office Melinda Cady, Assistant Superintendent, Hampshire County Sheriff's Office Shannon Hicks, MSW, LICSW, CHD Clinic Director- OBHS Easthampton/Greenfield, Director DBT Clinical Internship Program, Easthampton</p> <p>Session Description: The Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and Re-entry Initiative was one of several projects funded in 2018 by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to expand capacity to deliver medications to treat opioid use disorder (MOUD). Nationwide, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office (FCSO) was the only criminal justice institution to be awarded a grant. The project created a new criminal justice-engaged evaluation and research collaborative in Western Massachusetts that now involves the University of Massachusetts Amherst (UMass), the Hampshire County House of Corrections, and several community-based providers of health and social services. Building on this foundation, the collaborative is now a key component of several NIH-funded research projects.</p> <p>Presenters will provide an overview of the SAMHSA-funded project, report on findings, and present lessons learned from the first year of implementation. This session will also provide guidance on how to launch, sustain, and grow criminal justice-engaged evaluation and research collaboratives.</p>	

Session 1B

'Nuestras historias nos hacen más fuertes': Latinx Youth Experiences and Community-Based Learning in Worcester
(Medical School, Amphitheater I, S2-102)

Moderators/Presenters:

Dr. Carmen Ocón
Dr. Francisco Vivoni

Session Description:

This breakout session is an interactive workshop focused on community engagement and research with Latinx youth in Worcester. Through ongoing partnerships among Worcester Public School students, Clark University and Worcester State University faculty, and the Latino Education Institute, this workshop showcases Latinx youth as agents of knowledge production, social-emotional healing, and social change in the city of Worcester. The workshop applies the theoretical concept of socio-cultural *funds of knowledge* (González, Moll & Amanti 2005) in urban settings through curriculum that acknowledges and values cultural identity, academic enrichment, and the importance of building social-emotional and mental health among Latinx youth. Our research inquiry shows how the centering of young Latinx voices in pedagogical projects like photo voice, mapping mobilities and connections, *testimonios*, autoethnography, representing identity through childhood images, and multicultural inclusive curriculum contributes to a sense of emotional self-advocacy and academic success. By building social and emotional “mirrors” in pedagogical and community spaces, educational and health care workers can promote and reinforce an empowered acknowledgement of lived experiences, a socio-cultural asset-based perspective, and promote positive socio-emotional growth.

In this workshop, facilitators will provide a theoretical foundation drawing from a *funds of knowledge* (González, Moll & Amanti 2005) standpoint. Facilitators will introduce lived experiences as social-emotional healing through the use of pedagogical materials and artifacts developed during several semesters with Latinx high school youth attending a college enrichment program. Artifacts will demonstrate how Latinx youth navigate, process, and address social challenges, emotional trauma, and educational barriers. Attendees will engage, examine, and reflect on the artifacts produced by Latinx youth to forward educational social-emotional advocacy.

Session 1C

Developing a Strategic Plan for Community Based Research in Springfield
(Albert Sherman Center, 2nd floor, Lecture Hall/Auditorium, AS2-2102)

Moderator:

Paul Pirraglia, MD MPH, Chief of General Medicine and Community Health, Baystate Medical Center

Presenters:

Andrew Balder, MD, Baystate Health
Jessica Collins, Public Health Institute of Western, MA
Cristina Huebler-Torres, PhD, Caring Health Center
Peter Lindenauer, MD, Baystate Health
Frank Robinson PhD, Baystate Health
Daniel Skiest, MD, Baystate Health
Kathleen Szegda, PhD, MPH, MS, Public Health Institute of Western, MA

Session Description:

This team has a unique opportunity to improve the health of the residents of Springfield. In combination, the Baystate affiliated Community Health Centers (CHC's) and Caring Health Center—a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)—care for a large percentage of the total population of Springfield. Baystate's and Caring's CHC's have partnered through the BeHealthy ACO to provide much of this care. Because we serve a large and concentrated population with substantive challenges, our focus could be downstream (i.e. healthcare oriented) or upstream (i.e. policy, social, political) or some combination thereof. Many faculty, staff, and trainees in our systems in general and in the CHC's specifically are interested and have the content knowledge regarding social determinates of health and health care delivery but would benefit from a

coordinated system and mentoring structure to make a more meaningful impact. Creating a community based infrastructure for alignment and coordination among key stakeholders (e.g healthcare delivery systems, academic institutions, community based organizations, government entities, and others) will help assure common goals, efforts, and sustainability are maximized.

In this breakout session, attendees will have the opportunity to brainstorm how to further leverage existing and potential partnerships towards research that emanates from needs of the community and addresses these needs in a systematic, rigorous, and sustainable manner. Ideas generated in this session could help guide the development of a strategic plan for community based research in Springfield.

This session will open with a panel discussion of current state (stakeholders, resources, ongoing efforts) and early steps to begin developing a strategic plan followed by an open forum to brainstorm for next steps. The brainstorming topics include, but are not limited to: potential avenues of inquiry, model for engagement by CHC faculty and trainees, establishing and/or enhancing collaborations between local institutional stakeholders, assuring input and engagement of the community, and grant procurement strategies.

Breakout Session Two

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Session 2A

Strategies for reducing adverse outcomes for criminal justice-involved populations

(Albert Sherman Center, 2nd floor, Lecture Hall/Auditorium, AS2-2102)

Moderator:

Dyana Nickl, JD, Director, Health and Criminal Justice Program

Presenters:

Warren J. Ferguson, MD, Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health

Ekaterina Pivovarova, PhD, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry

Meaghan Dupuis, LMHC, Senior Director of Operations, Health and Criminal Justice Program

Session Description:

In the United States, we spend \$81 billion taxpayer dollars annually on the costs of incarceration according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, but including other costs may increase that estimate to \$181 billion. Data from Worcester suggest that the cost of incarcerating individuals in the Piedmont neighborhood of Worcester eclipse the entire annual budget of the Division of Public Health in Worcester. With a hard line on petty crime, lack of substance use disorder treatment in jail and prison, concentrated policing and racial profiling in low income communities of color and poor reentry support services, mass incarceration is destined to continue.

The opioid crisis in Massachusetts has affirmed that individuals with a history of incarceration and opioid use disorder are at greatest risk for nonfatal and fatal overdose. Furthermore, homelessness and serious mental illness increase that risk dramatically. In turn, the Governor and Secretary of Health and Human Services in concert with the Massachusetts Medicaid Program, the Department of Public Health and the Trial courts have undertaken a multi-pronged strategy to mitigate those risks. This panel will present three interventions to improve those outcomes.

Three panelists will describe and present findings on three studies completed and in process to reduce the health risks for justice-involved persons in Massachusetts. Dr. Ferguson will describe an implementation science study of four correctional systems which embarked on medication assisted therapies for opioid use disorder which has helped to inform current mixed methods research to study a pilot of medication assisted treatment in 7 Massachusetts jails; Dr. Pivovarova will describe her study of health status for individuals participating in Drug Court, a diversionary program that mandates substance use disorder treatment in the community for individuals arrested for drug related offenses; and Ms. Dupuis will describe the MassHealth funded Behavioral Health Justice Involved project to provide returning citizens with navigators to assist them in linking to community-based treatment and to address social determinants of health such as housing and employment. During the presentations, attendees will be asked to formulate questions or reflections for discussion. These will be collected and prioritized by the moderator of the session for further discussion.

Session 2B

The Effect of Social Connectedness and Isolation on the Health of Men of Color

(Medical School, Amphitheater I, S2-102)

Moderator:

Jeffery Markham Jr, Project Manager, Department of Health Promotion and Practice, School of Public Health and Health Sciences, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Presenters:

Aline Gubriuim, PhD

Luis Valdez, PhD

Dean Robinson, PhD

Session Description:

As a part of the MOCHA Moving Forward and supplemental MOCHA Latino research projects, UMass School of Public Health and Health Sciences researchers are investigating the utilization of relationship building, storytelling and story sharing as agents to reduce stress and stress related illnesses for low-income men of color. Low-income, African-American and Latino men bear a disproportionate share of burden of chronic diseases; proximal and interrelated causes include high levels of stress, low levels of physical activity, and malnutritious diet. Many structural and psychosocial factors influence stress, physical activity, and diet among African-Americans, including social determinants (e.g., socioeconomic status, neighborhood safety), social networks (e.g., social support, isolation), and gender identity (e.g., conformity to gender roles). Empirical evidence has identified physical and social contexts, interpersonal relationships and social roles, access to trusted sources of health information, ethnic identities and life stage, and values and beliefs as significant factors affecting stress, physical activity, and diet. These factors can be organized into three broad domains: systems (structural inequalities), interpersonal (social networks), and intrapersonal (gender identity). Chronic exposure to stress increases risk of chronic diseases directly through altered physiological functioning and indirectly through adverse eating and physical activity coping patterns. According to the US DHHS, African-Americans are less likely to engage in recommended levels of physical activity and more likely to consume foods high in fat, calories, and sodium. Black and Latino communities are differentially exposed to stress, which has been associated with increased food intake and obesity, due to historical and contemporary social inequities. The MOCHA intervention targets the interrelationship between stress, physical activity, and diet.

This breakout session provides an overview of the MOCHA Moving Forward project, including formative data collection and preliminary findings from the randomized controlled trial. This session will enable attendees to understand the complexity and influence of social connection on the health of low-income men of color.

Three presentations will guide this session using data acquired during the formative data collection from the MOCHA Moving Forward project. The first presentation will focus on findings that social connection increased participants' sense of health and well-being, and, conversely, that a sense of isolation was associated with a diminished sense of health. The second will present preliminary findings from interviews with men surviving at the social and economic margins of the Latinx diaspora in the Northeastern. The third will focus on men in our study, their relationship to work (e.g. access to jobs, adequate wages, or problems related to unemployment). Ideas about the meaning of work featured prominently even though not prompted by interview questions. This suggests that community driven conceptions of health reflect what public health researchers increasingly identify as the social determinants of health. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions during the presentations to maximize relevance for attendees. Attendees will also have the opportunity to share and discuss thoughts, opinions, and experiences in a mutually self-enriching, non-judgmental environment.

The UMCCTS Community Engagement & Research Section is part of the Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) program, funded by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (Grant # UL1TR001453) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

For more information on the UMass CCTS Community Engagement & Research Section, visit <http://www.umassmed.edu/CCTS/Community>.