

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Project Title: Educating the Primary Care Nursing Workforce to Combat Opioid Use Disorder through Behavioral Health and Medication-Assisted Treatment Integration in Rural and Underserved Alabama

Applicant Organization: University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing

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The purpose of this project is to create a sustainable pipeline of practice-ready primary care nurse practitioners with advanced training in opioid use disorder prevention, identification, and treatment and integrated behavioral care to enhance access to care for individuals living in rural and underserved communities across the state of Alabama. Building on previously funded ANE/ANEW awards, innovative, collaborative academic-practice partnerships between the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing (UABSON) and three addiction treatment/mental health centers, operating 11 clinic sites within 9 counties, will provide the ideal context for this advanced training. During the four years of the award, a total of 40 primary care NP students will complete 240 clinical hours at one of the proposed partner agencies providing advanced training. The UABSON as applicant organization, is joining forces with Tuskegee University School of Nursing (TUSON) as an affiliate partner, to work collaboratively to identify and recruit current TUSON graduating baccalaureate students/former graduates to the UABSON primary care nurse practitioner specialties for participation in the ANEW. This partnership will open training opportunities for minority nurses and increase access to additional clinical partners in rural/underserved areas. This ANEW funding opportunity will allow us to enhance our current academic-partnerships with Beacon Recovery and Aletheia House and expand partnerships in rural/underserved areas through a newly established relationship with East Central Mental Health Center. **A funding preference is requested as this project will substantially benefit underserved populations. The three academic-practice partner agency locations have MUA/P designations.** We will leverage these academic-practice partnerships to collectively achieve the following project goals:

1. Expand and enhance academic-practice partnerships with three of Alabama's opioid treatment and mental health centers serving patients in rural and medically underserved areas of Alabama.
2. Recruit, train, support, and evaluate qualified clinical preceptors at partner sites throughout the academic-partnership who are engaged in the clinical training of project students.
3. Provide traineeship support to qualified primary care nurse practitioner students who agree to clinical training requirements and intend to practice in rural and underserved areas of Alabama.
4. Enhance the didactic and experiential training of students to include opioid use disorder prevention, identification, treatment, recovery and the integration of behavioral health.
5. Assist graduates to secure employment in primary care settings that serve rural and/or underserved populations.