PROJECT ABSTRACT

Project Title: Interprofessional Education and Expansion of the Primary Care Workforce: Developing a Collaborative Learning Model in Urban Underserved Patient Centered Medical Homes

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FOA: Primary Care Training and Enhancement Program, HRSA-16-042
Funding Preferences Requested: Medically Underserved Community Qualification—Significant Increase; Special Consideration Request: Training physician assistant students.

Background and significance: The Affordable Care Act (ACA) extends coverage for uninsured Americans and those with pre-existing conditions but also contains many provisions that directly impact “business as usual” within Academic Health Centers (AHCs). The impetus for this training proposal, Interprofessional Education and Expansion of the Primary Care Workforce: Developing a Collaborative Learning Model in Urban Underserved Patient Centered Medical Homes, stems from and directly addresses provisions given by the ACA to AHCs to effectively train the next generation of medical students, healthcare providers and researchers, including: (1) Expansion of primary care training; (2) Community Health Center-based training programs; (3) Interprofessional healthcare teams; (4) Care of Individuals with Multiple Chronic Conditions; and (5) Development of true integration of behavioral health into primary care. This HRSA proposal is a Collaborative Project between five training programs at Boston University: 1) Boston University School of Medicine Department of Family Medicine, including the FM residency program; 2) Boston University School of Medicine Physician Assistant Program; 3) Boston University School of Medicine; 4) Boston University School of Social Work; 5) Boston University School of the Health and Rehabilitation Services. The lead applicant training program is Boston University School of Medicine Department of Family Medicine. This program is significant in that it aims to inspire and train the primary care leaders of tomorrow to work in interprofessional teams in the setting of patient-centered medical home models of care.

Objectives: We aim to: 1) Assemble an interprofessional team of learners from each of the above training programs at five urban underserved patient-centered medical homes (the team will be called Boston University Community Health Alliance of Medical Professionals or BU CHAMPs); 2) Build an Interprofessional Care Clinic (ICC) at each CHAMP site that offers patient-centered experiential training in interprofessional team-based care of medically complex patients; 3) Create an Interprofessional Learning Collaborative (ILC) where learners will use writing and an IT platform to develop, test, and disseminate health-advancement and educational reform innovations; and 4) Create a curriculum to teach knowledge, roles, skills, and attitudes necessary for interprofessional, integrated team-based care.

Outcomes and measures: The outcomes to be evaluated throughout the 5 year project period will include the following: measures of team functioning, learner professionalism and communication skills, number of new care management plans developed at each ICC site, patient access, quality of care, meaningful use of the ILC’s IT learning platform, impact of the ICC model on patient engagement and rate of program completers practicing in primary care or underserved areas.