



Monday Memo – June 23, 2014

Presentations

- Jay Broadhurst moderated a half day CME event at the Mass Medical Society on Wednesday June 18 titled: *Medical Marijuana – Regulations, Responsibilities and Communication*. While individual departments (including our own) have sponsored Grand Rounds on MMJ updates around the Commonwealth, this was the first half day accredited CME event in Massachusetts intended to help physicians and other providers to understand the law and the current state of the implementing regulations as well as to review the benefits and the risks of the medicinal use of marijuana as a way of helping physicians communicate with their patients about the physician role in this process. It is that benefit/risk assessment which physicians are required to perform in order to certify a patient for medical marijuana. Dr. At the same conference, Alan Ehrlich presented on: *Medical Marijuana: An Evidenced-Based Assessment of Efficacy and Harms*. He was joined by presenters from the fields of Psychiatry, Adolescent Medicine, Neurology and Oncology.

- Frank Domino presented on *Weight Loss and Exercise*, and on the *Top 10 EBM Changes to my practice*, at the recent *New Jersey Academy of Family Medicine conference*. FM

- The department was well represented at the recent annual meeting of AcademyHealth which was held June 7-11 in San Diego, CA. Presentations included:

Michael Chin: *Tracking Rates of Health Insurance Coverage Using Data from State Tax Filings in Massachusetts, 2008-2011* (poster presentation)

Robin Clark, et al: *Gender Differences in Psychiatric Comorbidity and Treatment Outcomes in a Medicaid-Insured, Opioid Dependent Population* (podium presentation)

Robin Clark, Wen-Chieh Lin, et al: *High Cost Medicaid Patients: Who are They? Whose Care is Managed? Whose Isn't?* (podium presentation)

Robin Clark, Jeff Baxter, et al: *Limiting the Duration of Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Addiction: Will New State Policies Help or Hurt?* (podium presentation)

Jack Gettens, et al: *The Employment-Related Health Insurance and Service Delivery Needs of Persons with Disabilities* (podium presentation)

Jack Gettens, et al: *Assessing Health Care Reform: Changes to Reduce the Complexity of the Application Process for Individuals with Disabilities* (podium presentation)

Jay Himmelstein: *Technology and the ACA: Early Lessons from New England* (podium presentation)

Ann Lawthers, Christine Johnson, Judy Steinberg, et al: *Staff Resilience at Mid-Point in a Three-Year Medical Home Demonstration* (poster presentation)

Judy Savageau, David Keller, et al: *Universal Behavioral Health Screening in Massachusetts Children on Medicaid* (podium presentation)

Judy Savageau, Linda Cragin, Warren Ferguson, et al: *Take II: Factors Related to Recruitment and Retention of Primary Care Physicians at Community Health Centers Post Massachusetts Health Care Reform: Results from 2008 and 2013 Statewide Physician Surveys* (poster presentation)

Judy Steinberg, Sai Cherala, Christine Johnson and Ann Lawthers: *Massachusetts Patient-Centered Medical Home Initiative (MA PCMH): Impact on Clinical Quality at 30 Months* (podium presentation)

Judy Steinberg, Christine Johnson, David Polakoff, et al: *Lessons Learned from Implementing the Massachusetts Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Initiative* (poster presentation)

· Sandy Blount and Ron Adler were the plenary speakers for the ***One Care Shared Learning Conference***: “Integration of Primary Care, Behavioral Health and Community Supports in Real Life Cases: Developing and Implementing Person-Centered Care for People with Complex Health Care Needs,” sponsored by Commonwealth Medicine. The half day conferences were held on June 3rd at the Springfield Marriott, June 10th at the Best Western Royal Plaza in Marlborough, and June 18th at the Four Points by Sheraton in Norwood. The purpose of the conferences was to foster the integration of One Care team members, including primary care, behavioral health and community based providers as they deliver person-centered care for people with complex health care needs. In addition to Sandy and Ron’s contributions, Tina Runyan facilitated a small group, and the Clinical Faculty Development Center provided the logistical support.

Clinical Practice

· Erik Garcia reports that the Homeless Outreach and Advocacy Program clinic at Community Healthlink, for which he is the Medical Director, had a recent HRSA review and were recognized for four “best practices” – care continuity with their integrated team approach, provision of Housing as a major component of care, Community connection and affiliations, and the level of involvement of the consumer advisory board.

Publications

· Stefan Topolski, faculty at our Fitchburg residency, has published the article *Validation of a non-linear model of health*, which has been presented widely and at our research forum last year, in the Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice. This many years' work demonstrates a potential log-normal distribution of complex health over a human lifespan.