



Monday Memo – January 5, 2015

Grants and Contracts

- The Department is the recipient of a Fostering Effective Integration grant from the Massachusetts Blue Cross Foundation. The grant is for the calendar year 2015 for a total of \$125,000. Sandy Blount is the Principal Investigator of the sponsored project to enhance evidence based depression care in the Barre and Hahnemann practices, and to improve our ability to extract and utilize data on the behavioral health services in the practices.
- Linda Weinreb, in collaboration with her colleague Dr. Debra Rog at Westat, the MA Department of Housing and Community Development, and the MA League of CHCs, has received a \$100,000 planning grant from the Oak Foundation for the " Homeless Families Health Care Project." The project will systematically assess the current configuration and operation of the homeless service system in the metropolitan Boston area and opportunities for linking with the community health system and other mainstream systems to foster service access and residential stability for homeless families. This assessment and resulting blueprint for change will develop the knowledge needed to take advantage of, and leverage, health care delivery transformation and new payment efforts to improve the health and long-term stability of homeless families.
- Monika Mitra (with co-PI Dr. Susan Parish of Brandeis University) was recently awarded a 5 year NIH grant to investigate pregnancy and childbirth complications, outcomes, and inpatient costs among women with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Other UMMS faculty involved in this project include Alixe Bonardi (FMCH), Bruce Barton (QHS), Karen Clements (QHS), and Tiffany Moore-Simas (Obstetrics and Gynecology)

Medical Student Education

- On December 17 many of our Department faculty participated in the Health Policy Interstitial curriculum for third year students. Plenaries were given by Michael Tutty, Group Vice President, Professional Satisfaction and Practice Sustainability, at the American Medical Association; John Polanowicz, Secretary of EHHS in Massachusetts; and Eric Dickson, UMMMHC CEO. Bob Baldor and Jerry Gurwitz provided the Welcome and Introductions. Department faculty who facilitated small group discussion of case studies focusing on ethical dilemmas in practice created by developments such as high deductibles and pay for performance, included: Jay Broadhurst, Suzanne Cashman, Michael Chin, Alan Chuman, Matt Collins, Frank Domino, Alan Ehrlich, Phil Fournier, Michael Kneeland, Dan Lasser, Carolyn Langer, Marilyn Leeds and David Polakoff.