



AHRQ Efforts on Integration



The Academy for Integrating Behavioral Health and Primary Care

The Academy will serve as a centralized national center for stakeholders such as policymakers, researchers, providers, and consumers. It will provide the tools and materials necessary to advance the field of integration, and promote a collaborative environment that fosters dialogue among leaders who treat mental/substance use disorders and provide primary care. Led by a team of respected national experts, the Academy will develop a sophisticated portal to accommodate all aspects of a successful resource center; provide a forum for clarifying and strengthening the Academy's mission; support activities directed toward integrating behavioral health and primary care by leaders across disciplines; provide an extensive repository for materials members want and need; and, identify gaps in materials and generate solutions. In addition, the Academy Team will accomplish targeted related projects.

Current projects underway:

- **The Primary Care Survey** is a large national survey of small independent or solo primary care practices that will collect information on a range of related topics. Primarily, this effort will establish a level of evidence around how the area of integration has impacted on this group (or not). Specific areas of focus will be how MH/SA is managed; how integration is considered; what knowledge exists regarding the models of integration; what is missing, what are barriers, what do they need; how are they affiliated with community; how do they manage SUDs; SMI; populations; financing.
- **The Integrated Workforce Functions and Competencies** project will use an expert panel to develop a national strategy for addressing and improving the variety of issues related to mental health and primary care providers in an integrated system of care. Specific activities will be an environmental scan (to include literature review); a qualitative research study (observational) of what functions actually exist in an integrated system; development of core provider competencies; and, development of a guidebook on the competencies as well as a technical assistance effort. A targeted dissemination plan will include all stakeholders to include professional guilds and education and training organizations.
- **The Technical Assistance for Effective Quality Improvement and Evaluation in Mental Health-Primary Care Integration (IQM)** project is investigating and identifying existing measures of integration and to present in a format accessible to interested parties in the broader field. An expert panel is being used to develop and refine a conceptual model for integration and evaluation. An environmental scan and lit review has been conducted and work is currently underway to develop and refine an Atlas of the measures, similar in nature to AHRQ's Care Coordination Atlas. Methods to develop the Atlas include the development of a conceptual framework for measuring integration to which identified measures will be carefully mapped. While the main product will be the actual Atlas, a sophisticated dissemination plan will also provide technical assistance to users.

Research grants

Brian Kaskie – U. of Iowa – Large demonstration research project for developing the collaborative care model in a rural setting focusing on depression, anxiety disorder, substance abuse, and cognitive impairment.

Brian Jack – Boston Medical Center – Large regular research project that will take an extremely successful hospital discharge tool – ReEngineered Discharge (RED) – and evaluate the impact of adding a collaborative primary care model in an attempt to lower hospital readmission rates for depressed patients.

CJ Peek – U. of Minn – Small conference grant (2011) to conduct the second phase of developing consistently understood language and concepts around integration using the methodology of paradigm case formulation. Developing this lexicon will help eliminate confusion over language among researchers, practices, policymakers, and funding organizations.

Jurgen Unutzer – U. of WA – Small conference grant (2011) to partner with several Foundations in conducting a large national summit for developing a roadmap for integrating mental health into the patient-centered medical home. The AIMS Center continues to develop this work and partners with the Academy on developing future activities.

Ben Miller – U. of CO – Small conference grant (2010) that established a research agenda as well as accomplished the 1st phase of the lexicon work done by CJ Peek. Work of the conference was well described in 3 manuscripts published by AHRQ in a full report - "**A National Agenda for Research in Collaborative Care**" (AHRQ 11-0067).