Project ECHO Initiative

Dr. Heather Bell
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Our communication throughout our state and further.

Moving Knowledge Instead of Patients and Providers
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ECHO model is not “traditional telemedicine.”
Treating physician retains responsibility for managing patient.
Goals of our ECHO:

• Aid providers in the appropriate management of narcotic prescribing.
• Give providers the ability to identity patients that are not appropriate for opioids, through things such as chart reviews.
• Be able to identify comorbidities that put patients at higher risk of death.
Goals of our ECHO:

• Collect data for the state that will demonstrate improvement in prescribing practices and decreases in the number of pills being prescribed.
• Educate physicians on the CDC and new state guidelines.
• Increase the number of buprenorphine providers in rural Minnesota.
• Decrease OD deaths
Catholic Health Initiatives

**ECHO Clinic Format**

- Attendance
- Didactic
- Case discussion/reviews
- Specialist partners
  - Addiction specialist
  - Pain doctor
  - Toxicologist

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One free hour of CME/CEU weekly!
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Topics Covered:

- Data Collection
- CDC Guidelines
- Task Force Components
- Care Plans
- Urine Drug Screens
- Thinking About Doing Buprenorphine in Primary Care Clinic
- Changing Physician Culture
- Care Team Functions
- Comorbidities Associated with Opioid Overdose

- ACE Scores
- Overview of Kratom
- Documentation for Patients on Narcotics and Suboxone
- Opioid Use Disorder in Pregnancy
- Marijuana Overview
- PDMP Overview
- The Treatment Experience
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Presenters:

• Family physicians
• Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialist
• Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Administrator
• Director of Minnesota DHS
• Addiction Medicine physician
• President of a women’s treatment center in Minnesota
• LADC from Hennepin Healthcare
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Little Falls Hub

ECHO Participants
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“Multiplication of Force”

Little Falls buprenorphine patients

ECHO Spokes

Roughly 10 patients per ECHO SPOKE
Outcomes:

• 21 rural buprenorphine prescribers throughout Minnesota
• 425,508 pills cut out of rural communities throughout Minnesota
New ECHO Program

- Partnering with the University of Minnesota Rural Physician Associate Program (PMP)
  - Nine-month, community-based educational experience
  - For third-year medical students who live and train in rural communities
  - Experience hands-on learning as they care for patients of all ages
  - Supervised by a physician preceptor who is a practicing, board-certified family physicians
Recipe for Success

- RPAP students are generally:
  - Motivated
  - Eager to learn
  - Caring about rural health

- Goal
  - Generate interest in these students to consider addiction fellowship
  - Inspire students and physician preceptor to become buprenorphine waivered
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Communities with an RPAP student
THANK YOU!
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