Specialty Care Access in the Community Health Center Setting & The APMA/TDI Public Health Fellowship

Dyane E. Tower, DPM, MS
MPH Candidate
The Dartmouth Institute of Health Policy & Clinical Practice

Young Physician’s Institute
Franklin, TN – April 13, 2013
Objectives

• Discuss the role of community health centers (CHC).
• Discuss specialty care access in CHC setting.
• Explore the APMA/TDI Public Health Fellowship.
• Tie it all together.

Source: www.nachc.com
Community Health Center

- Designed to reduce disparities
  - Minority groups
  - Poor
  - Under- & uninsured

- Provide:
  - Safety net
  - Care for disadvantaged populations

Source: www.nachc.com
CHCs

- Medical home to ~5% of US population
- Deliver care to ~20 million people

Source: www.scfhc.org
Medicaid Expansion

• Health insurance exchanges become established
  • Increase percentage of Americans using CHC services

• Concern with CHC capacity
  • Specialty care

Source: www.healtheconomists.blogspot.com
Specialty Care Access

- Off-site medical specialty care
  - Difficulties accessing care
  - Poorer outcomes
- What about surgical specialties?
  - Podiatry

Source: www.equity.lsnc.net
APMA/TDI Public Health Fellowship

Mentor: James J. DiResta, DPM, MPH

Est. 2012 – 2013 Academic Year
APMA/TDI Public Health Fellowship

• Offers fundamental skills, knowledge base and philosophical foundation in health policy and clinical practice
  • Specific attention paid to:
    • Public health
    • Clinical/health services research
    • Healthcare leadership
The Dartmouth Institute

- Founded in 1988
  - Center for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences
  - Dr. John E. Wennberg, MD, MPH
  - Housed within the Department of Community & Family Medicine at Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth
- In 2007 TDI reorganized as independent entity
- Current Director: Dr. Elliott Fisher, MD, MPH

http://www.tdi.dartmouth.edu/
TDI Centers

- Health Policy Research
- Informed Choice
- Leadership & Improvement
- Medicine & the Media
- Aging Research
- Education
- Population Health
Coursework

• General Public Health
  • Strategic & Financial Management of Health Care Institutions
  • Critical Issues in Health & Health Care
  • Social & Behavioral Determinants of Health
  • Practical Approaches for Today’s Health Care Ethics Challenges
• Environmental Health Science & Policy
Coursework

- Analytic Courses
  - Epidemiology/Biostatistics 1
    - Part 1
    - Part 2
  - Epidemiology/Biostatistics 2
  - Advanced Methods in Health Services Research
  - Decision & Cost-Effectiveness Analysis
Coursework

- Quality Improvement
  - Continual Improvement of Health Care
  - Statistical Measurement & Analysis in Quality Improvement
  - Design & Improvement of Clinical Microsystems
Coursework

• Research Methods
  • Inferential Methods & Systematic Review
    • Part 1
    • Part 2
  • Qualitative Methods Toolbox
  • Current Status of Practice Variation Research

![Odds Ratio Graph](image)
Tools

- STATA 12
- TreeAge Software, Inc
- ENDNOTE X6
- Hyper Research
- PubMed
- Wolters Kluwer Health
- OvidSP
- SPC XL for Excel
- 5
- The Cochrane Collaboration
  Working together to provide the best evidence for health care
How it all ties together…

- MPH Capstone
  - Improving access to a community health center’s podiatric specialty clinic: A quality improvement project with a clinical microsystems approach
Activities
New England
Questions?

Thank you.

Dr. Dyane Tower, DPM, MS & Dr. Elliott Fisher, MD, MPH


