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NH Citizens Health Initiative Receives Behavioral Health Integration Grant

Endowment for Health grant will support efforts to integrate behavioral health into primary care practice in New Hampshire

Concord, N.H. – The NH Citizens Health Initiative, a program of the Institute for Health Policy and Practice at UNH, has announced this week an award from the Endowment for Health. The project grant, in the amount of \$201,230, will help the Initiative further the efforts of integrating behavioral health into primary care, driven by evidence-based, sustainable models. The project, titled the Behavioral Health Integration Learning Collaborative, will commence in November and involve health care providers and practices throughout the state, along with other insurers, government, and other stakeholders.

The mission and goal of the Initiative is to improve the systems that finance and provide health care, by bringing together leaders throughout New Hampshire and supporting innovative efforts to improve health in line with the Triple Aim of “better health, better care, and lower costs” for all of the people of New Hampshire. These efforts include the leadership and guidance of business leaders, community agencies, medical providers and citizen members.

“There is a critical need to increase access and improve care delivery in our fragile behavioral health system,” says Yvonne Goldsberry, President of the Endowment for Health. “The Endowment is pleased that the NH Citizens Health Initiative will be leading this collaborative effort to advance system innovation and promote shared learning between providers across New Hampshire.”

The catalyst for developing the Behavioral Health Integration Learning Collaborative came from the work of the Accountable Care Project, a member-driven health transformation project led by the NH Citizens Health Initiative.

“Many physical health concerns are actually driven by behavioral health issues, and we can’t help people be healthier by ignoring or treating them in silos of care. The need to bring behavioral health care into primary care is acute, and there is real momentum to move this forward in New Hampshire,” says Jeanne Ryer, Director of the NH Citizens Health Initiative. “The Behavioral Health Integration Learning Collaborative grant from the Endowment for Health will help us move this work forward and promote better overall health for NH residents and build on earlier efforts in this field.”

The NH Citizens Health Initiative has fostered the development of and led many health improvement projects throughout the state, including the Pound of Prevention report, the NH Medical Home Project, the ePrescribing Initiative, MapNH Health, and the NH Accountable Care Project.

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The [NH Citizens Health Initiative](#) is a multi-stakeholder collaborative effort that promotes systems transformation in New Hampshire to improve the health of NH's population, in line with the Triple Aim. The Initiative, a program of the Institute of Health Policy and Practice (IHPP) at the University of New Hampshire, has a ten-year history of leading, incubating, and testing innovative transformation efforts.

The [Institute for Health Policy and Practice](#) (IHPP) at the University of New Hampshire is an applied research institute, established in 1999, to conduct and disseminate high-quality, cutting-edge applied research and policy work that enables health system partners to implement evidence-based strategies to improve public health.

The [University of New Hampshire](#), founded in 1866, is a world-class public research university with the feel of a New England liberal arts college. A land, sea, and space-grant university, UNH is the state's flagship public institution, enrolling 12,300 undergraduate and 2,200 graduate students.