

Title: Changes in Prescriber Attitudes About Medication-Assisted Treatment Training from Before and After the COVID-19 Pandemic

Principal Investigator: Hannah Haynie, M.S., SOAR Clinic Manager, Department of Family and Community Medicine, NEOMED

Co-Investigator: Dr. Stacey Gardner-Buckshaw, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine, NEOMED

Location: Department of Family and Community Medicine, G-123; research will be conducted at NEOMED.

Abstract and Significance: Primary care providers (PCPs, including primary care physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners) are frequently the first line care for many patients with opioid use disorders. The IOM has recommended health professions education and training programs should provide educational opportunities in pain assessment and treatment in primary care. To address this critical training need, NEOMED and Metro Health Services collaborated to offer Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) training designed specifically for PCPs. The recent opioid crisis has created an increased need for addiction treatment.

To assist PCPs in the successful incorporation of MAT into all levels of medical education and primary care practice, NEOMED and Metro Health have been offering training sessions since November 2017. The 12-hours of training includes 4 hours of self-directed online MAT training offered by SAMHSA and AAAP, 4 hours in-person MAT and 4 hours supplemental training designed for PCPs. The supplemental training teaches clinicians the significance of opiate use disorders and identification; MAT implementation best practices, and how to converse with patients about MAT; misconceptions about MAT; means to address stigmas associated with MAT; and motivational interviewing. This plan goes beyond the required 8 hours of required MAT for the X waiver and is designed to ensure that PCPs achieve a level of comfort in delivering this type of treatment. Even with recent changes in legislation, training has continued to ensure provider competency and comfortability when providing MAT services.

A manuscript describing the initial study was accepted for publication by the *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine* in November 2022.

Goals and Objectives: The goal of this study is to build upon what we learned over the program years and assess how participation in the NEOMED/Metro Health MAT training for PCPs influenced implementation of MAT into primary care practice. Given that no trainings were held in 2020, we also wish to measure differences in PCP attitudes and intent to implement buprenorphine treatment into primary care practice before the COVID-19 pandemic compared to providers trained in 2021 or later (after the initial COVID-19 surge). To accomplish this, the summer research fellow will compile evaluation data- collected in the past and present, for the development of a manuscript describing the program and its outcomes. The fellow may also design an independent, related research project using secondary data under faculty direction that will be disseminated at NEOMED Scholarship Day.

Significance of Anticipated Findings: This study holds the promise of contributing to evidence-based interventions, ultimately working towards mitigating the profound consequences of the dual challenges posed by the opioid epidemic and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Investigative Methods: The student will compile training pre-test and post-test evaluation data and analyze the results using quantitative methods.

Proposed Method of Data Analysis: This project requires simple descriptive statistics, frequencies, crosstabs and comparative means tests.

Student Role: Under direction, the student will take a leadership role in all parts of the research process including but not limited to: institutional review, informed consent, questionnaire development, survey interviewing, data collection and analyses, and dissemination. The student will meet at least bi-weekly with collaborating NEOMED faculty and staff, as needed.

Mentoring Plan:

1. The student will meet with the research team bi-weekly.
2. Educational topics we will cover, in the context of the project:
 - A. Establishing a research question
 - B. Conducting a gap analysis/literature review
 - C. Protection of human subjects
 - D. Data collection/management
 - E. Posters and presentations
3. The student will work with the research team in the DFCM to submit a regional or national presentation of their work.

Resources Available: The student will receive space in the DFCM, with access to computers and a telephone (as required) for research-related activities. The student will also receive research and statistical support, as needed. Funds from a SAMHSA grant, or DFCM's student support budget, may be used for student travel to meetings/interviews/presentations, or for poster printing for dissemination.