

Title: Adolescent Substance Use Disorder in Northeast Ohio – Exploratory Study

Principal Investigator: Stacey Gardner-Buckshaw, Ph.D., MPA, Associate Professor and Director of Community Engagement, Department of Family and Community Medicine, NEOMED

Location: Department of Family and Community Medicine, G-151, and a collaborating hospital (such as Akron Children’s or Metro – planning meetings scheduled for late January 2024).

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 substance use disorders (SUD). The same is also true for pediatricians, however most SUD research is conducted in adults even though many patients with SUD report engaging with alcohol and other drugs in adolescents. The IOM has recommended health professions education and training programs should provide educational opportunities in SUD treatment in primary care. This study will explore the feasibility of treating pediatric patients with SUD in a primary care setting, and to assist PCPs in the successful incorporation of MAT into all levels of medical education and primary care practice,

Goals and Objectives: The long-term goal of the project is to identify how to recognize risk for SUD in adolescents, design effective interventions, and treat adolescent SUD in a primary care setting. The short-term objective to be achieved this summer is to identify a target adolescent population to target for the study using data from health system electronic medical records and/or community youth risk behavior survey data. This data is required to secure grant funding for the project from federal sources. To help accomplish this, the summer research fellow will conduct a study to inform project development. The student will use existing data to inform study design, engaging stakeholders from Northeast Ohio. Then, will compile and report the information to NEOMED program directors and other stakeholders responsible for the SUD treatment expansion and/or follow-up training program. 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: Results of this study will inform best practices in MAT and other SUD recovery interventions and training for PCPs, and will likely inform a forthcoming grant-funded project proposal.

Investigative Methods: The student will help design and implement an exploratory study to look for themes among program stakeholders regarding what content is needed (priorities) for PCPs implementing adolescent SUD intervention in practice, as well as content to be presented in trainings (accessibility).

Proposed Method of Data Analysis: This project requires simple descriptive statistics, as well as understanding of the various qualitative and quantitative methods.

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, protocol

development, data collection and analyses, and dissemination. The student will meet at least bi-weekly with collaborating NEOMED faculty as needed.

Mentoring Plan:

1. Student meets with Dr. Gardner-Buckshaw and community preceptor 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. Writing a grant proposal
 - D. Protection of human subjects
 - E. Data collection/management
 - F. Posters and presentations
3. The student will work with Dr. Gardner-Buckshaw 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.