

Recurring Themes and Next Steps

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CONVENING CONFERENCE

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Recurring Themes

- Ideological challenges in framing the issues and American aversion to investing in social services (the ideal of selfsufficiency) – Financing is improtant
- Social and behavioral circumstances are intimately linked to health
- Chronic and behavioral health conditions are among today's most pressing health problems
 - Heart Disease
 - Diabetes
 - Depression
 - Substance Use
- More social services expenditures produce better health outcomes in national and international studies (Bradley et al, Health

Affairs, 35(5), 2016; Bradley et al, BMJ Quality and Safety, March, 2011



Recurring Themes, continued

- Preliminary findings that social work services in coordinated care are associated with positive outcomes and cost savings (Steketee)
- There is much to learn about integrated health services models
 - What is the specific intervention? Much current research fails to define the IV
 - Inconclusive findings to date (Reves et al, 2013, Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews)
 - Today's presentations indicated a variety of populations with different integrated care needs (diabetes, CVD, child mental health)
- Measuring the Impact of Interprofessional Practice on Patient Outcomes (http://www.nap.edu/21726)



Recurring Themes, continued

- Much innovation with social work in integrated care currently going on (Golden)
 - Needs to be captured
 - Part of the problem is lack of time for social workers to participate in scholarship
 - This is a particular structural problem in academic medical centers
 - Feeds a viscous cycle that undermines the social work role.
- The lowest paid worker who can fill the need will be hired (Bachman)
 - Social Work has both benefited and been harmed by this harsh reality.



Next Steps: NEEDED ACTION

- Specification of specific interprofessional models of care, including articulation of the social work role
 - Several speakers addressed options and variations in collaborative care models
- Careful, mixed methods studies and cost benefit studies of interprofessional practice and patient outcomes
- Social Work Education to improve competencies in:
 - use of the EMR and informatics,
 - Benefits, insurance, and financing expertise,
 - Health literacy for social workers,
 - leadership for social workers in health care teams.
 - Work with peers
 - A population focus
 - Working in Teams IPP



At the University of Michigan a consortium of Health Sciences Schools has committed to create a substantial agenda of IP Inquiry

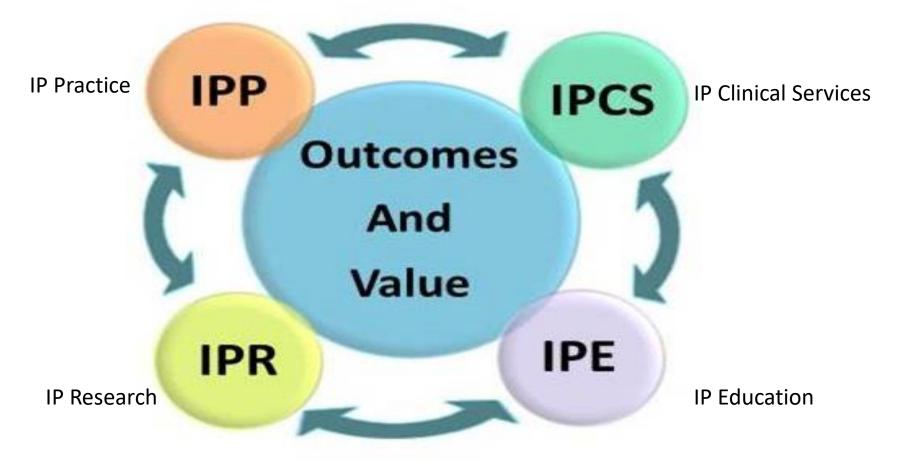


Figure 1. Conceptual model of the Michigan Model for Inter-professional and Comprehensive Health (MiMICH)

