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BACKGROUND

In 2016, the US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Bureau of Health Workforce awarded a cooperative agreement to establish an academic unit to serve as a national resource for systems-level research on oral health integration into primary care training with special emphasis on training enhancements that will train primary care providers to deliver high quality, cost-effective, patient-centered care that promotes oral health, addresses oral health disparities and meets the unique needs of all communities.

The national ***Center of Integration for Oral Health and Primary Care (CIPCOH)*** is a joint endeavor of Harvard University School of Medicine (HMS)'s Center for Primary Care (CPC) and its Department of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology, and the University of Massachusetts Medical School's Department of Family Medicine and Community Health (UMMFMCH) in partnership with Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences University (MCPHS) and Stony Brook University School of Nursing (SBUSN).

CONTACT

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MISSION AND VISION

Mission: CIPCOH serves as a national resource to consolidate the evidence base for systems-level oral health integration into primary care training.

Vision: CIPCOH envisions the role of integrative training and practice leading to cost-effective, patient-centered, and improved patient outcomes within the delivery of primary care.

CIPCOH will contribute to the improvement of primary care practice and patient outcomes through:

- conducting systems-level research on primary care training
- disseminating information, best practices and resources
- recommending and promoting primary care training enhancements
- developing community of practice plans that mobilize stakeholders to integrate oral health into primary care training and delivery.

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

With the establishment of the national center, a growing network of CIPCOH Community of Practice and education collaborations is forming to:

- Foster stakeholder engagement, connections and collaborations in primary care and oral health integration and training enhancements
- Share knowledge and best practices for systems-based improvements
- Conduct research and contribute to primary care and oral health education, practice, scholarship, and policy development

RESEARCH

CIPCOH conducts innovative, interdisciplinary, and collaborative systems-based research on assessing the current status of oral health integration with primary care training and examining best practices and exemplary models of education and practice.

Ongoing and future studies will allow us to :

- Identify successful integration efforts of oral health in primary care training and practice.
- Develop evaluation methods for a range of programs across the learning and practice spectrum.
- Disseminate these tools for the use of those involved in primary care delivery including trainees, practitioners, health system administrators and policymakers.

CURRENT PROJECTS

An evaluation of integration of oral health into primary care curricula

Existing oral health curricula show substantial variation between sites, between levels of learners, and between the full spectrum of each site's curriculum. Additionally, little is known about associated educational outcomes. Recent surveys of health training programs are now years out of date. This project will undertake a series of nationwide surveys of oral health curricula in medical learning institutions for primary care providers and conduct a systematic review which will identify model curricula that improve educational outcomes, as well as curricular gaps.

An analysis of current competencies in oral health for training primary care providers across the learning spectrum

This project is a national and community-based systems-level research to facilitate consensus on a standardized set of oral health competencies at various levels of education for primary care providers. The Center will conduct a review and analysis of all currently available sets of oral health competencies, integration of these competencies into accreditation standards, and assessment of implementation and evaluation of the oral health competencies into primary care programs curriculum.