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Title: Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program
Organization: University of Utah
Program Director: Linda S. Edelman PhD, RN

Attachment 4 – Project Abstract

The purpose of the Utah Geriatric Education Consortium (UGEC) Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program is two-fold: 1) to enhance the primary care and long-term services and supports (LTSS) workforce capacity through interprofessional education (IPE) and workforce training; and 2) to increase older adult, family, and caregiver engagement across Utah, with a focus on rural and underserved populations. To achieve this purpose, we provide primary care and LTSS providers, staff, patients/residents and families, health professions students, and communities education and resources with a focus on the 4Ms of Age-Friendly Health Systems. Project objectives include:

Objective 1. Develop and train the existing primary care and LTSS healthcare workforce on the 4Ms elements of Age-Friendly Health Systems to enhance care and improve older adult outcomes across LTSS settings through IP and online education programs including a Age-Friendly Project ECHO and an LTSS workforce residency program. The majority of programs are online to include rural clinical partners. In 2022, we strengthened collaboration with the University of Utah Health ambulatory care clinics to provide 4Ms based training and improving care transitions to our LTSS partners.

Objective 2. Provide interprofessional education for health professions students and trainees, preparing them for careers in primary care and geriatrics with expertise in individual and population approaches to care transitions, behavioral health, social determinants of health, and the 4Ms. We provide exposure to Age-Friendly Care through direct interaction with students, a post-graduate certificate program, webinars, and online training programs.

Objective 3. Educate older adults and family caregivers about Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias, behavioral health, and end of life, including participation in the Indigenous Peoples GWEP Consortium. Current programs include monthly Fireside Chats, caregiver support training, and an online dementia training program.

Objective 4. Evaluate the impact of GWEP activities on measurable patient outcomes including patient-reported outcome measures and standard health system measures (dementia caregiver education and support, opioid misuse, advance care planning, 30-day readmissions, falls measures) in a University of Utah Ambulatory Care clinic.

To accomplish project objectives, the UGEC partners with the University of Utah Ambulatory Care Clinics/ Home Health & Hospice Association of Utah/Utah Health Care Association, LTSS, and LTSS champions (Avalon HealthCare/Mission Health Services/Cascades HealthCare/Legacy HealthCare/Community Nursing Services/Aspire Home Health/Solstice Home Health/Envision Home Health/ Hospice & Palliative Care), community partners (Comagine Health /Alzheimer’s Association/Utah Department of Health/VA SLC GRECC), and Academic Partners (University of Utah Schools/Colleges of Medicine, Social Work, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Health, Physicians Assistant/Area Health Education Centers/Utah Telehealth Network).

Accomplishing these objectives will support the overarching UGEC aim to improve older adult health outcomes through education and training, and to support rural and urban Utah communities and families to care for older adults with dementia.