

Attachment 4 – Updated Project Abstract

HRSA-19-008: Oklahoma Dementia Care Network (previously called Oklahoma Dementia Education Enhancement Program) (PI: Jennings)

I. PROJECT ABSTRACT

- Project Title: HRSA-19-008: Oklahoma Dementia Care Network
- Project Period: July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2024
- Project Director/PI: Lee Jennings, MD, MSHS
- Applicant: University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
- Request for funding preference “Substantial Benefit for Rural or Underserved Populations”
- OUHSC Academic Partners: Section of Geriatric Medicine, Department of Medicine, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, College of Public Health, School of Social Work
- Community Partners: Alzheimer’s Association Oklahoma Chapter; Oklahoma Foundation for Medical Quality; Oklahoma Practice-Based Research/Resource Network; Oklahoma City-County Health Department; Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority; Indian Health Service (IHS)
- Trainees: persons living with dementia (PLWD) and family caregivers, family and internal medicine residents, geriatric and palliative medicine fellows, medical and other health professions students, faculty, community health workers, nursing home direct care workers, rural primary care providers

Purpose: The Oklahoma Dementia Care Network (OkDCN) is a statewide collaborative effort focused exclusively on building healthcare workforce capacity to improve outcomes for persons living with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (ADRD). Specifically, our objectives are to:

- Objective #1: Build Stakeholders Advisory Council to develop partnerships across state focused on improving health outcomes for PLWD.
- Objective #2: Train primary care providers and trainees to assess and address the care needs of PLWD, using the 4Ms framework (i.e., mobility, mentation, medications, what matters most).
- Objective #3: Transform primary care practices and nursing homes to become age- and dementia-friendly health systems.
- Objective #4: Deliver community-based education and training to nursing home direct care workers, community health workers, IHS community health representatives, and PLWD and their family caregivers to improve health outcomes for older adults living with dementia.

Project outcomes will be 1) a robust academic-community-Tribal network of collaborating dementia care partners, 2) a primary care provider workforce better prepared to care for PLWD, 3) increased access to age- and dementia-friendly certified health systems, and 4) greater dementia expertise in the direct care workforce, including family caregivers, dementia-certified community health workers, nursing home staff, and Career Technology System health graduates.

Important milestones achieved to date, despite setbacks related to the COVID-19 pandemic, include 1) the convening of a diverse, statewide Stakeholders Advisory Council with 84 members from 23 different community, Tribal, and academic partners; 2) aging-sensitivity training delivered annually to over 160 health professions students and incorporation of novel dementia caregiver trainings and support groups into OUHSC primary care trainee curriculum; 3) a new Age-Friendly Nursing Home Project ECHO program with over 60 participating Oklahoma nursing homes; 4) planning for the launch of a Dementia-Friendly Project ECHO for community health workers in collaboration with Oklahoma City-County Health Department and Choctaw Nation; 5) engagement of 5 primary care clinics and 8 long-term care communities in transforming their settings to be age- and dementia-friendly, including achieving Level 1 or 2 Institute for Healthcare Improvement recognition for 10 sites; 6) creation of curriculum for a novel training program for community health workers in dementia in collaboration with OK City-County Health Department and Tribal partners with the training of over 160 CHWs; 7) training of over 220 family caregivers of persons living with dementia using virtual classes during the COVID-19 pandemic; and 8) an annual Innovations in Aging Conference in conjunction with Careers in Aging Week.

Particular strengths of the OkDCN include: Focus on ADRD education/training, including dementia-friendly health system transformation; Novel educational experiences for formal and informal ADRD workforce in community settings; An emphasis on tele-education/tele-health, including Project ECHO, to reach rural communities; Collaboration with State, Tribal, and community agencies, building on existing relationships.