Letter from the Director

Hello Colleagues,

Thank you for taking the time to review this inaugural Institute for Health Policy and Practice Annual Report. We are incredibly excited to be able to share this reflection of our work. The activities summarized within this document reflect a tremendous amount of work by our team, in partnership with many dedicated colleagues.

It is certainly a dynamic time in health policy and practice, with changes in structure, payment, measurement, and service delivery across the health and community service spectrums. We find ourselves fortunate to be working to improve the health of the population in a range of different ways.

This report provides a snapshot of that work, but cannot capture all the ideas, meetings, events, emails, and conversations that occurred in the past year, all with the overall purpose to create meaningful change in the health and healthcare environment.

There is no lack of opportunity to improve population health, and we look forward to continuing to find ways that IHPP can contribute to those improvements.

Jo Porter

Dedication

IHPP would like to dedicate this annual report to our founding director, Ned Helms, who retired in 2015. Ned's dedication made all of what is reflected in this report - and all the incredible work for the 14 years before 2015 - possible. He taught his team so much, and showed us all what hard work and commitment to improving the lives of others can achieve. Thank you, Ned, for all you have done for IHPP.
**Long Term Care & Aging Highlights**

**Environmental Scan of Elder Health Priority Areas**
Through collaboration with the Alliance for Healthy Aging, this report seeks to understand health priorities and what all systems need to better support older adults in their communities.

Priority areas include fundamental needs being met, living arrangements, support for caregivers and families, social and civic engagement, physical and mental well being supports, and effective advocacy efforts.

**Person Centered Systems Training**
In partnership with NH DHHS, the Center on Aging and Community Living (CACL) staff facilitated the development of online and in person training for Aging and Disability Resource Center staff.

Topics include serving veterans, military members and families; serving children and families; and mental health supports.

**Nursing Facility Minimum Data Set**
Providing analytic expertise, staff assisted NH DHHS in expanding utilization of the Nursing Facility (NF) Minimum Data Set (MDS) by developing an algorithm to identify nursing facility residents who may find success living independently in the community.

A key project highlight involved designing and piloting a database for using MDS data to determine Medicaid medical eligibility, which was adopted into permanent practice by NH DHHS.
Where We've Been

Selected Conferences and Events

Gerontological Society of America Annual Research Meeting - Orlando, FL

CMS Quality Conference - Baltimore, MD

Supreme Court Oral Arguments for Goebeille v. Liberty Mutual - Washington, DC

Strategic Alignment to Improve Health: Linking the Health and Community Development Sectors - Boston, MA

Health Trust Summit - Concord, NH

Center for Healthcare Transparency - San Francisco, CA

Maine Health Management Coalition Symposium - Portland, ME

State-University Partnership Learning Network Annual Meeting - Washington, DC

Academy Health / Urban Institute Meeting - Washington DC

National Improvement Partnership Network Meeting - Burlington, VT
Office Operations

Suzanne Shumway-Hill
Business Manager

Suzanne acts as a liaison between IHPP and the greater University, in areas focused on purchasing, billing, and human resources. Suzanne is also responsible for preparing and managing grant and contract funds.

During the 2015 calendar year, Suzanne made great strides towards attaining her MBA. Her projected graduation is December 2016.

Bridget Drake
Program Support Assistant

Bridget joined IHPP in 2015. IHPP relies on Bridget to facilitate a high level of quality, consistency, and clarity with our external-facing communications. Bridget’s coordination of the website, printed materials, and presentations ensures IHPP’s projects and programs are communicated clearly to the external world.

Our 2015 Interns: The Future of Health Improvement

Madeline Dalton
Jennifer Jurczyk
Brendan Landry
Jessica Lavalee
Sameer Panesar

Heather Porter
Stephanie Schmeltzer
Maggie Schmidt
Elizabeth Trivett
Program Management

- Long Term Care Medicaid procedure expertise
- NH DHHS’s Eligibility Coordinator project

Group Facilitation

- Utilizes visual processes and graphic facilitation to lead seminars, workshops, and conferences
- Facilitates stakeholders to synthesize information, craft measurable goals, and direct participants to action

Areas of Interest

- Improving long term care, care transitions, and acute care medical systems through the adoption and evaluation of person centered systems change and methodology

Teaching

- Training Coordinator for NH ADRC project
- Person Centered Systems Change
- Online educational module development
- State-wide certification development

Skills

- Graphic Design and Artwork
- Patient and Client Advocacy
- Facilitated project management, creative solutions, and streamlining processes

Certified Long Term Care Ombudsman

Provides training in care coordination, care transitions, and person centered acute care interventions
Public Health and Health Promotion Highlights

The Million Hearts Initiative
The Million Hearts Initiative is a national effort to avoid 1 million heart attacks and strokes by 2017.

The Million Hearts Initiative, in partnership with NH DHHS and clinical partner sites (Manchester Community Health Center, Lamprey Health Care - Nashua, and Goodwin Community Health), released "Ten Steps for Improving Blood Pressure Control in NH: A Practical Guide for Clinicians and Community Partners."

Co-authored by Rudy Fedrizzi, MD, of Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth-Hitchcock Keene, and Kimberly Persson, MSW, of IHPP, the guide details how clinicians and communities can work together to improve hypertension throughout the state.

Newborn Screening Timeliness Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network
State-based newborn screening programs are responsible for assuring that all infants are screened at birth for inherited medical disorders. Minimizing the time between birth and reporting of results can save infant lives by identifying time-sensitive conditions early so treatment can begin.

An ongoing series of analysis and data reports authored by Dr. Laflamme has been driving systems change leading to the proportion of timely screenings in NH improving from 61% to 92% (and rising). One hospital saw their late specimens decrease from 32% to less than 4% almost overnight by making two small changes, a "lesson learned" that has been shared with other programs across the country.

Partnership for a Healthier America's Healthier Campus Initiative
UNH, through Healthy UNH and partners across the University, became a member of the first cohort of this new national college health initiative, which focuses on obesity prevention. Partner colleges are required to accomplish 23 of 39 guidelines over a period of 2.5 years.

Guidelines met by UNH in 2015 included making Registered Dietitians available for personal assessments, providing 16 hour per day access to a fitness or recreation center, and making certified personal trainers available to all students.
Dr. David Laflamme
Joined IHPP: 2003

Brings current real-world public health practice experience and examples into the graduate classroom

Since 2003, has advanced the use of data to inform maternal and child health policies and programs in NH

Staff Profile

Surveillance
- Maternal Mortality
- Infant Mortality
- Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
- Teen Births
- Zika-related Birth Defects

Service and Leadership
- Mentor for national maternal and child health epidemiology leadership programs
- Perinatal Substance Exposure Task Force
- Birth Data Quality Committee
- National expert workgroup for redesign of Title V block grant data standards

Areas of Interest
- Using existing public health datasets to drive population health improvement at the intersection of public health and clinical medicine
- Evaluation in Public Health Social and Behavioral Health
- SPSS, JMP, FRIL
- Data Linkage and Quality Evaluation

Teaching

Skills

State of NH Maternal and Child Health Epidemiologist

Faculty Member
Health Management and Policy
Public Health Graduate Program
**NH Citizens Health Initiative**

The Initiative celebrated its 10th Anniversary in 2015 and continues to build on a record of achievement in bringing together stakeholders from across sectors to create better health and healthcare for New Hampshire.

The Initiative’s Accountable Care Learning Network launched a new learning collaborative on behavioral health integration and high blood pressure control.

2015 also saw the launch of the Northern New England Practice Transformation Network, with our partners in Maine and Vermont.

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**NH Pediatric Improvement Partnership**

The NH PIP, during its first cohort, helped 4 NH pediatric and family practice primary care practices at 7 sites implement evidence-based standards for developmental screening. Screening rates increased by 70%.

Other 2015 NH PIP Projects included work on improving immunization rates and specialty care access through telehealth.

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**Behavioral Health Integration Learning Collaborative**

More than 60 organizations have come together to improve the health of NH residents by integrating behavioral health into primary health care.

More than 25% of primary care visits have some kind of behavioral health need.

Providers, payers, and other stakeholders learn together how to provide better care, improve outcomes, and lower costs by treating the whole person.
Staff Profile

Molly O'Neil
Joined IHPP: 2014

Coordinates quality improvement projects focusing on pediatric care and child health

Facilitated physicians and medical staff to reach and exceed project goals

Quality Improvement
- Primary Care Coordination
- Pediatric Care Quality Measures
- Identifying knowledge / care gaps in primary care practices

Project Coordination
- Work plan development
- Evaluation development
- Database management

Areas of Interest
- Pediatric coordination of care
- Survey development and evaluation
- Quality improvement practice coaching
- Data Analysis
- Clinical Microsystems Coach for primary care practices
- Pursuing MPH at UNHM

Education Skills
- Project coordination
- Primary care measurements and evaluation

Coordination and evaluation: Pediatric Improvement Partnership

Practice Transformation Network Coaching
Health Analytics and Informatics Highlights

All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) Council
The APCD Council is a learning collaborative of government, private, non-profit and academic organizations focused on improving development and deployment of state-based all-payer claims databases. The APCD Council is convened and coordinated by IHPP and the National Association of Health Data Organizations.

In 2015, project staff supported the development of comments on state’s abilities to collect behavioral health and substance abuse data and were actively involved in submitting an amicus brief in support of the state of Vermont in the Gobeille v. Liberty Mutual case.

Center for Health Analytics
CHA provided analytics for numerous organizations in 2015, including the NH Accountable Care Project, the NH Purchaser’s Group on Health, and provided assistance to the NH Department of Health and Human Services with storage and analysis of NH Medicare claims data.

Over the last three years, by providing partners with data analysis, data quality assurance, and technical assistance, CHA has generated over 2.5 million dollars in contracts and grant awards.

Medicaid Electronic Health Records Incentive Program
Directed by Eve Fralick, by contract with NH DHHS, this program provides incentive payments to professionals and hospitals as they demonstrate adoption, implementation, upgrade, or meaningful use of certified EHR technology.

To date, 371 healthcare providers (332 eligible professionals and 39 eligible hospitals) have received incentive payments totaling $13,596,823.99.
Health Law and Policy Highlights

Health Law and Policy Certificate Program
UNH Law launched a new Health Law and Policy Program, a collaboration between the School of Law and the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS).

The Health Law and Policy Program has developed a curriculum and a certificate for students who wish to graduate with the legal and regulatory essentials necessary to practice in the emerging and dynamic field of health law.

Model All-Payer Claims Database Legislation
The Health Law and Policy team has worked to enhance the public availability of critical healthcare claims data needed for the development of innovative public health and policy strategies across the country.

With the APCD Council, the team published “Model All-Payer Claims Database Legislation.” The model legislation provides guidance for developing legislation for state all-payer claims database systems.

Innovations in Health Law and Policy Symposium
The Health Law and Policy Program, with the support of the Warren Rudman Center at UNH Law, hosted a national discussion on key health policy issues.

The symposium featured a keynote by US Solicitor General Don Verrilli and former CMS Administrator Cindy Mann, with guest appearances by NH Senator Shaheen and Governor Hassan.

Analysis focused on state innovations in the Health Insurance Marketplace post-\textit{King v. Burwell}, including health insurance developments, state innovation waivers, Medicaid expansion, and comparative effectiveness review in pharmaceutical innovation.
Strategic Intentions

Innovation
Movement toward our vision of optimal population health requires a sense of exploration and an open culture that continually supports new ideas and creative approaches. As such, IHPP will foster innovation by promoting and catalyzing efforts that will improve population health.

Leadership
Leadership requires that we bring an entrepreneurial approach to our work, that we bring together groups with diverse membership, and that we are creative and imaginative about effective ways to achieve our vision.

Knowledge Transfer
As an applied research institute, our role is to focus on transformational knowledge necessary for health system evolution. We will be transparent in our methods and approach.

Sustainable Infrastructure
As an organization that is constantly growing, the necessity for a sustainable infrastructure is clear. To achieve sustainability, we will focus on financial security and business development, while maintaining pride in our achievements and a healthy place to work.
Thank you to our many partners

AARP New Hampshire
Academy Health
Aetna
Anthem
Beacon Health Options
Beacon Health Strategies
Bi-State Primary Care
Carsey School of Public Policy
Centene
Center for Excellence
Center for Healthcare Transparency
Center for Life Management
Cheshire Medical Center, Dartmouth-Hitchcock
Cigna
Community Health Institute
Compass Health Analytics
Concord Hospital
Dartmouth Centers for Health and Aging
Dartmouth-Hitchcock
Dartmouth Medical Center
Endowment for Health
First Choice PHO
Geneia
Go...