Thank you for taking time to review the 2016 IHPP Annual Report. The past year was certainly an active one in the health policy arena. The prominence of health-related issues at the local, state, and national levels provided ample opportunity to be involved in projects to further IHPP’s mission to “conduct and disseminate high-quality, cutting-edge applied research and policy work that enables health system partners to implement evidence-based strategies to improve population health.”

Many of those projects are described here, but many others are not. I encourage you to visit our website for more information about our work and our team.

Looking back at 2016, IHPP had many accomplishments, none of which would have been possible without the tremendous talent, dedication, and enthusiasm of this team, and our partners within and outside of New Hampshire. We look forward to working together in the year to come -- which certainly looks to be just as exciting as the last.

Jo Porter
Director

2016 Interns

JENN JURCZYK
STEPHANIE SCHMELTZER
LIZZIE TRIVETT
JESS LAVALEE
HEATHER PORTER
CARLY BARBER
BRENDAN LANDRY
COLEEN BERNARD
ELLIE CHRISTIANA
KATHERVINE COX
SAMEER PANESAR
SARAH ANDERSON
Our Work

IHPP CONDUCTS AND DISSEMINATES HIGH-QUALITY, CUTTING-EDGE APPLIED RESEARCH AND POLICY WORK THAT ENABLES HEALTH SYSTEM PARTNERS TO IMPLEMENT EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE POPULATION HEALTH.

Vision: IHPP will be recognized as a state and national leader in efforts to assure integrated excellence across all those systems necessary to yield optimal population health.
As an applied research institute, our role is to focus on transformational knowledge necessary for health system evolution.

2016 brought IHPP members exciting opportunities to spread and share our knowledge through delivering training, technical assistance, presentations, and meeting participation with a spectrum of partners and audiences across the nation. This map is just a sampling of where we've been in the last year.

Funding Trends
2016 Total: $3,618,281

- Federal, Foundation and Other Grants
- State Contracts
- Foundation Gifts and Project Support
- Other
Focused on solutions across the healthcare spectrum
The Northern New England Practice Transformation Network (NNE-PTN) recruited more than 900 NH providers in 2016. Provider types included specialty care, behavioral health, and primary care. Staff assisted more than 150 practices with quality improvement work, and promoted the use of data for clinical and business solutions to prepare for value-based payment models. Technical Assistance was provided to assist with reporting processes, and resulted in penalty avoidance for many practices.

At the 2016 CMS Quality Conference, with a team from NNE-PTN member Frisbie Hospital System; the NNE-PTN poster was selected for the Conference Gallery Walk focusing on successful recruitment and improving depression screening rates. NNE-PTN is also collaborating with IHPP’s Health Analytics and Informatics team to develop claims data reporting for NH and Maine to support project aims.

The New Hampshire Pediatric Improvement Partnership (NHPIP) is a state-level collaborative of private and public partners dedicated to improving health care quality for all NH children. Major accomplishments in 2016 include an assessment of oral preventive service delivery to children under 6 years in primary care settings, practice recruitment for two national HPV immunization projects, a project integrating telehealth into pediatric primary care clinics, and a second cohort of clinics in a developmental screening learning collaborative.
Center on Aging & Community Living Creates Innovative Partnerships

Through numerous projects, IHPP’s Long Term Care and Aging focal area and the Center on Aging and Community Living (CACL) seek to participate in and promote interdisciplinary partnerships at the University. Projects include the Age of Champions Event, participation in CHHS’s Research Affinity Group on Aging, and multiple projects with the Occupational Therapy and Social Work (SW) departments. CACL also hosts a SW graduate level intern each year.

Staff also assisted NH’s Department of Health and Human Services with the creation of standards and protocols for partners operating in a person-centered No Wrong Door (NWD) system. The standards and protocols span 21 key elements, including the development of a person-centered plan, and support state-based leadership and collaboration.

Focusing on Interdisciplinary Success

CACL is partnering with New Hampshire’s community based organizations (CBOs) serving older adults and adults with disabilities. An important aspect of this work is supporting the advancement of CBOs’ business acumen skills in contracting with integrated healthcare entities. CACL’s work in this area was initiated with ServiceLink Aging and Disability Resource Center Network, Granite State Independent Living, and The New Hampshire Coalition of Aging Services. This work continues to expand.

CACL is a partnership between the Institute on Disability and the Institute for Health Policy and Practice
Alison Rataj: Inspiring Action, Supporting Community Based Initiatives

Alison has been with IHPP since 2013, when she began her graduate internship with the Center on Aging and Community Living. Alison demonstrated a passion and drive that led her to a formal position with IHPP in 2015. Currently, Alison is a research associate, and performs most of her work in the Long Term Care and Aging focal area of IHPP.

2016 brought exciting community based work to Alison, including the Alliance for Healthy Aging project. Supported by the Endowment for Health, the Alliance for Healthy Aging creates a vision of communities where New Hampshire’s culture, policies, and services support elders and their families, providing a wide range of choices that advance health, independence, and dignity. Alison’s work focuses on supporting the 265 individuals within the Alliance in their goals while supporting connections, communication, and collaboration. Alison has also contributed to the Alliance’s work by writing and disseminating two published works: Collaborating to Create Elder Friendly Communities in New Hampshire: A Scan of the Current Landscape, as well as A Funding Scan for Age-Friendly Initiatives in New Hampshire: Illuminating Opportunities.

Published Research and Leadership

Alison also represents IHPP well through her engagement with the broader University. She has conducted research and literature reviews on multiple projects related to community based systems and social work pedagogy, including two publications, in the journal Social Sciences, and in the Journal of Baccalaureate Social Work, respectively.

Alison rounds out her applied work by teaching Human Behavior in the Social Environment 2, for first year Master’s of Social Work Students attending UNH Durham, and was elected to the NH National Association of Social Workers Board of Directors. During the 2016 year, she was also selected to be the chair of the Association’s Aging Committee.
Health Law and Policy Team Targets Behavioral Health, Substance Use

The Health Law and Policy focal area, partnering with New Futures and students from UNH Law, developed a guide to help individuals and families in the state access addiction and mental health care services. *The Resource Guide for Addiction and Mental Health Care Consumers: Answering Questions About Addiction and Mental Health Care Coverage*, is part of a statewide educational effort to help consumers learn how to access health insurance and use their coverage to pay for necessary treatment.

As a companion to this guide, the Health Law and Policy team created an animated short video, *Navigating Insurance Coverage for Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment.*
IHPP staff developed a tool to demonstrate the utility of dental claims data. Analysis showed a variety of demographic, geographic, utilization and cost information related to oral health care in NH. Further analysis will include linking medical and dental claims data, understanding the dental service industry and analysis specific to provider types and populations. One analysis explores the costs per member per month for restorative services relative to other types of oral health care. The tool was developed through funding support from the HNH Foundation.

Using Data to Support Medicaid Quality and Incentives

Developed and administered by IHPP, the NH Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Program passed the $15,000,000 threshold in 2016, making almost 500 payments to eligible professionals and eligible hospitals that adopted, implemented, upgraded, and meaningfully used Certified EHR Technology.

Through a separate initiative, NH DHHS worked with IHPP and the Research Computing Center at UNH to build a system, known as the Medicaid Quality Information System (MQIS), to support the collection of data from Medicaid Managed Care programs. From the data, important measures of access, quality, and utilization are produced via an online system.
IHPP's Maternal and Child Health Epidemiologist Shows Impact of Health Reform on Insurance Status Around Pregnancy

The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) was launched in 1987 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as part of an effort to reduce infant mortality and low birth weight. PRAMS is a survey that collects state-specific, population-based data on maternal attitudes, behaviors, and experiences before, during, and after pregnancy.

IHPP contracts with the NH DHHS’ Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) to provide the State Maternal and Child Health Epidemiologist, who was instrumental in bringing PRAMS to NH. He continues to work with DPHS to support the project by serving as the principal investigator, steering committee member, maintaining IRB approval, reviewing publications, and monthly sampling. NH PRAMS data are currently available for 2013 - 2015 births.

This infographic from the PRAMS team shows how the percentage of women uninsured before, during, and after pregnancy changed dramatically from 2013 to 2015 with the implementation of reforms related to the Affordable Care Act. Continuity of health care throughout the perinatal period and beyond supports the health and well-being of mothers, their babies and children.

Visit the NH PRAMS website to see the survey instruments (2013-2015, 2016-2017) and view annual data books, data briefs, infographics, and other publications.
Chris White: IHPP's Senior Technology Manager

Chris joined IHPP as an analyst in 2010, bringing a wealth of data management and analysis experience to IHPP. In his current role as Senior Technology Manager, Chris provides analytic and technical leadership across a wide variety of projects. Chris has over 20 years of healthcare analytics and informatics experience, with a particular expertise in health care claims.

In his career, he has provided analytic and technical support to an incredibly diverse array of partners, including actuarial, finance, claims, sales and marketing, disease management, client reporting, membership, and provider contracting.

In 2016, Chris collaborated with UNH Research Computing Center staff to migrate the Center for Health Analytics’ data storage, access, and analysis platform from a single server to dual server environment. Chris leveraged his extensive knowledge of health data storage, security, and access requirements to ensure that this significant migration happened, which is a necessary foundation for a range of projects.

Application and Process Development Contribute to IHPP's High Quality Reporting

2016 also saw Chris developing the majority of the application and process codes used to support the transformation of disparate health data sources into a common repository layout. This allows the repository and reporting applications to deliver common, high quality and consistent reporting for a number of IHPP’s projects, including the Accountable Care Learning Network, the Northern New England Practice Transformation Network, and the New Hampshire Purchasers Group on Health.
The NH Citizens Health Initiative’s Behavioral Health Integration Learning Collaborative (BHILC) consists of provider, payer, and other key stakeholders from NH and the region working toward integrating primary care and behavioral health. In 2016, BHILC’s many successes included hosting 6 learning events, a published summary report, and the award of additional funding. More than 60 organizations participated, of which 8 provider practices enrolled for implementation work, including several of NH’s Community Mental Health Centers.

Participating practices completed site self-assessments; showing progress toward integration, as well as a greater understanding of integration needs and areas for development. The learning collaborative emphasizes shared data and learning, leading to actionable progress by addressing key needs in areas such as payment, technology, and privacy and confidentiality.
Thank You
TO OUR FUNDERS, SUPPORTERS, AND CONTRIBUTORS

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NH Office of Medicaid and Business Policy
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NH Purchasers Group: USNH, State of NH, HealthTrust, SchoolCare
North Country Health Consortium
Northeast Node
Northeast Passage

Pero Consulting Group
SAS
ServiceLink Aging and Disability Resource Center Network
Southern NH Area Health Education Center
State of NH Administrative Services
State of NH Department of Health and Human Services
State of NH Department of Safety
State of NH Insurance Department
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UNH Carsey School of Public Policy
UNH Institute on Disability
UNH Research Computing Center
UNH School of Law
University System of New Hampshire Urban Institute
Vermont Program for Quality and Healthcare
Well Sense Health Plan
West Health

The many care delivery sites participating in our projects
The Institute for Health Policy and Practice

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