Title: TEAM UP for Children: Transforming and Expanding Access to Mental Health in Urban Pediatrics for Children

Authors: Genevieve Daftary, MD, MPH1, Michael H. Tang, MD2, Rebecca A Stoltz, MPH3, Karen Schoenherr, BA1, Cathleen Bonacci, MD3, Nandini Sengupta, MD, MPH2, Colleen E. Canfield, LMHC2, Connie B. Cohen, LICSW3, Sheila L. Och, MPH, CHW3, Emily Feinberg, ScD, CPNP4, Megan Bair-Merritt, MD4, and Shanna Shulman, PhD5
1) Codman Square Health Center, 2) The Dimock Center, 3) Lowell Community Health Center, 4) Boston Medical Center, 5) Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation

Background: TEAM UP for Children is a 4-year, $10M initiative to co-create and test an innovative model of fully integrated pediatric health care in three Massachusetts federally qualified health centers: Codman Square Health Center, Dimock Health Center, and Lowell Community Health Center.

Aims: TEAM UP seeks to build integrated care capacity through therapeutic teams of primary care providers, clinicians, and community health workers within primary care sites. A learning community was created to support evidence-based identification, prevention, and management of child behavioral health disorders, and provides technical support for practice transformation.

Approach: TEAM UP is grounded in a stepped care model, utilizing evidence-based behavioral health screening and treatment strategies in an integrated care setting, and leveraging the collective experience of the collaborating health centers. TEAM UP uses a learning community approach to inform process and clinical models using best practices and adaptations to fit the cultural context of each community. The collaboration focuses on workforce development for all primary care team roles, practice transformation, strategies to maximize reimbursement, and evaluation metrics in support of continuous quality improvement.

Expected outcomes: TEAM UP implementation began June 2016. Baseline data was collected and outcomes are being tracked via electronic health records, payer data, and stakeholder interviews. Success will be measured by an increase in the capacity of health centers to track and treat childhood mental illness, parental satisfaction, health and learning outcomes, pediatric clinical staff knowledge and confidence related to mental health, and achievement of a fully integrated pediatric behavioral health care model, as well as reduced burden of mental illness.

Conclusions: Findings from TEAM UP for Children are anticipated to provide a roadmap of pediatric integrated care for providers, payers, policymakers, and professional organizations.

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