Integration of Chiropractic Services and Education into a Community Health Center Organization

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Today drugs containing opioids are the most widely prescribed drugs in America.
They are also behind the country's deadliest epidemic: Fatal drug overdose.
More than 22,000 people in the United States die from drug overdose of legal drugs annually.
Health Care Reform

- The National Prevention Strategy highlights the need for more effective evaluation and management of disease including acute and chronic pain.
Health Care Reform

- Chiropractic services must become more available to the public!
Treatment without prevention is simply unsustainable.

Bill Gates
Future of Chiropractic Medicine

- Chiropractic physicians must be integrated as valuable members of the primary care team within coordinated care organizations.
• “We have found that the integration of chiropractic services enabled our patients to experience less pain and promoted healthy living. Hopefully, other community health centers in Connecticut and across the country will use our model to reduce chronic pain and improve quality of life.”

Margaret Flinter, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President and Clinical Director
Community Health Center, Inc.
Chiropractic Integration Outcomes

- Increased referrals to chiropractic providers
- Reduced referrals to orthopedic surgeons
- Increased patient satisfaction
- Chronic pain patients experienced improved function
- Reduced use of opioids
- Allopathic provider satisfaction with chiropractic services
National Prevention Strategy

- Integrated healthcare, defined as a coordinated system that integrates evidence-based CAM providers into healthcare delivery systems and primary care facilities within community health centers is expected to reduce pain and disability.
• **Chronic pain** - Pain that occurs on at least half the days for six months or more.
• The Affordable Care Act permits chiropractors to function as members of the primary care team because of the non-discrimination provision (Section 2706), which lifts some of the burden imposed by unfair limitations of certain insurance companies.
Chiropractic Integration

• CHCI and UB provide chiropractic services at 10 primary care sites, chiropractic student rotations at seven primary care sites in Connecticut and the first chiropractic orthopedic residency with a subspecialty in neuromusculoskeletal medicine.

• This program was made possible by the May Day Fund and the Affordable Care Act.
Coordination of Care

• “Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) provide essential primary care services to seniors and others in underserved communities,”
Coordination of Care

• The primary care medical home (PCMH) coordinates care across all elements of the broader health care system, including specialty care, hospitals, home health care, and community services and supports.

• http://pcmh.ahrq.gov/portal/server.pt/community/pcmhome/1483/PCMH_Defining%20the%20PCMH_v2
Coordination of Care

• The goal of coordinated care is to ensure that patients, especially the chronically ill, get the right care at the right time, while avoiding unnecessary duplication of services and preventing medical errors.
Community Health Center Inc. (CHCI)  
University of Bridgeport (UB)  
Chronic Pain Program  

- UB offers properly credentialed chiropractic specialists, resident training and research  
- CHCI recruits interested community health centers  
- CHCI locates grants to fund pilot studies  
- CHCI trains community health centers (CHC)  
- Participating community health centers expand scope of chiropractic reimbursement
Integration in New Jersey

- Chiropractic physicians will be credentialed by community health centers as members of the medical staff with evaluation and management privileges and specific chiropractic services during 2016.
Thank you
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