

UNE Center for Excellence in Public Health (CEPH) team presents on program and assessment at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts.

Ruth Dufresne, SM, senior research associate in CEPH presented on behalf of the Northern New England Clinical Champions Program team: Selma Holden, Selma Holden, MD, MPH, MS, Mentor & Project Director, College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM); Melanie Caldwell, MS, PCTE Grant Manager; Micaela Maynard, Med, PCTE Grant Coordinator; and Lisa Letourneau, MD, MPH, Mentor.

The presentation, “Assessment of healthcare services in selected FQHCs for persons treated with chronic opioids and for those with opioid or substance use disorder (OUD/SUD),” discussed the program components and a quality improvement assessment tool. The project provides mentorship, training, and programmatic support to self-identified primary care physician and physician assistants at participating FQHCs in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. Participating FQHCs complete an OUD/SUD care assessment to gain an understanding of the needs of the FQHCs related to care of individuals with chronic opioid treatment and OUD/SUD, and to inform quality improvement efforts.

The opioid crisis persists throughout Northern New England. UNE and the program address this issue by assessing practices and promising models for improvement of healthcare services for people using opioids and other substances and spreading these lessons learned to other FQHCs in a variety of settings. The program was funded by a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Primary Care Training and Enhancement (PCTE) grant.

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