

WORKSHOP 4: ADVANCING EQUITABLE CARE: TAKING ACTION TO ADDRESS SOCIOCULTURAL INFLUENCES ON PEDIATRIC PSYCHIATRIC PRACTICES

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Children's Hospital in New Orleans is a 229-bed, not-for-profit pediatric medical center offering a complete range of healthcare services for children from birth to 21 years. Last year, ~2,000 children presented to the emergency department with behavioral health complaints, and ~1,700 children were treated in the acute inpatient psychiatric hospital. Notwithstanding entrenched social determinants of mental health in the broader community, the inpatient psychiatric medical team sought to engage in a process of collective-reflection to identify sociocultural barriers to equitable care in our system. The process including observation, discussion and a plan to address issues. Care providers identified that racism, heteronormativity, poverty, and power dynamics were impeding equitable care and influencing practice habits such as making diagnoses, formulation, and treatment planning. Following this reflective process, a process of engaging community stakeholders, educating staff, and modifying practice habits to address gaps in care has been implemented.

This workshop will review sociocultural factors that impede equitable care, identify potential solutions to navigating these, and possible challenges along the way. We will discuss and provide examples of first, second, and third order interventions that were implemented at Children's hospital and the associated outcomes. This workshop will be presented in an interactive format. Drawing on mindsets and activities from human centered design, we will engage participants in a critical examination of how sociocultural factors may be influencing their own practice and the field of psychiatry in general, and provide suggestions for how to implement changes in a variety of clinical settings.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this workshop, participants will be able to:

1. Participants will be able to identify how sociocultural factors such as race, gender, poverty, and power dynamics potentially influence the delivery of psychiatric care.
2. Participants will be able to assess how these factors influence their own practice.

References

Berger J. The Influence of Physicians' Demographic Characteristics and Their Patients' Demographic Characteristics on Physician Practice: Implications for Education and Research. *Academic Medicine*. 2008;83(1):100-105.

Coleman KJ, Stewart C, Waitzfelder BE, et al. Racial-Ethnic Differences in Psychiatric Diagnoses and Treatment Across 11 Health Care Systems in the Mental Health Research Network. *Psychiatr Serv*. 2016;67(7):749-757.