Neighborhood Health Centers of the Lehigh Valley (NHCLV):
Center of Excellence Year 1
Lessons Learned:
Leveraging Integrated Primary Care to Link People with Substance Use Treatment
Allentown, Pa
www.nhclv.org
Neighborhood Health Centers of the Lehigh Valley

- **Only** Federally Qualified Health Center in the Lehigh Valley
- Care regardless of ability to pay
- All ages
- Integrated behavioral health
- Board 50% community
Why Did NHCLV Decide to Pursue Center of Excellence (COE)?

- Medical Training
- Challenges treating chronic non-cancer pain
- Recognizing OUD. Community Need.
- LVSUP
- Experience with patients needing care - uncertain how to respond

NHCLV Uniquely Prepared to Treat Opioid Use Disorder

- Integrated physical-behavioral health
- Bi-lingual staff
- Linkage Support
- Environment where everyone is welcome
What have we learned from patients?

- No single path to recovery
- Successful care plans address physical health, behavioral health and addiction recovery support needs
- Prevention
  - Identification of Trauma
  - Harm reduction
  - MAT
- MAT assists patients in attaining abstinence so they can engage in counselling
What we have learned about care delivery?

- Listening, Ask
- Relationship building
- Overcoming Stigma
- Interdisciplinary Teams - Social Work, Nursing
How do we Improve Care in our community practices?

• Making primary care more effective with the addition of social services and case management
• Relationship building and listening is essential
• Acknowledging presence of SUD stigma among medical professionals
How to be a Valuable Community Partner?

- Building relationships and partnerships
- Complimentary care team incorporating DDAP and ICM makes MAT effective
- DDAP, social service providers, and health care operate differently
Suboxone vs. Vivitrol

- **Suboxone**
  - Partial agonist
  - Daily dosing
  - Opioids
  - Suitable during pregnancy

- **Vivitrol**
  - Antagonist
  - Once monthly injection
  - Opioids and alcohol
  - Not suitable during pregnancy

MAT is **NOT** replacing an illegal substance with a legal one!

Nursing Implications for MAT

- Assessment and monitoring
  - Induction
  - Stabilization
  - Maintenance
- Coordination
  - Medication, prior authorization
  - Liaison for pharmaceutical rep
- Education
  - Patients and families
  - Health center staff
  - Outside providers
Enhancing Primary Care through Social Services Case Management

- Creating and Sustaining our local Hub and Spokes
- Providing linkage, referral and management of services.
- Navigating patients through the health care system through a series of warm hand offs.
- Handout of area addiction treatment providers and services.
What have we learned about being a Community Partner?

- Building relationships and partnerships
- Collaborative care from outside agencies makes MAT effective
- DDAP, social services, providers, and health care operate differently
Engagement by Numbers

- Engaged: 175
- Linked to MH: 103
- MAT: 174
- Addictions: 92
Relapse and Overdose Prevention

- Narcan education for patients and staff
- Educating agency partners
- Linkage to services
- Bi-weekly care management contact
- Building strong patient relationships