

## Rheingans, Carrie

---

**From:** Carrie Rheingans, Washtenaw Health Initiative Senior Program Manager  
<crheinga@med.umich.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 28, 2016 12:24 PM  
**To:** Rheingans, Carrie  
**Subject:** SIM Update, Being Mortal Event - September/October Washtenaw Health Initiative Newsletter

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it online!](#)



## Newsletter

## September/October 2016

**WASHTENAW  
HEALTH  
INITIATIVE**

### In This Issue

[WHI Acute Dental Project](#)

[Share Your Story](#)

[WHI News](#)

[Other News](#)

### **Acute Dental Care Initiative connects community members to oral health care services**

In 2013, The WHI Acute Dental Care workgroup began a project that aimed to better connect Washtenaw County patients presenting to the emergency department (ED) with dental needs to appropriate oral health care within the community. To do so, the project developed an effective referral process to divert patients who presented at University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) or St Joseph Mercy Health System (SJMHS) to the Community Dental Center (CDC). CDC staff provided broad referral guidelines to the two EDs, and

## **WHI News SIM Update**

WHI has begun the Planning and Design phase for the SIM in Washtenaw and Livingston counties.

The WHI SIM Work Group, chaired by Doug Strong and Paul Valenstein, is

responsible for setting SIM project goals and monitoring progress toward those goals; reviewing and approving the recommendations of the SIM subcommittees; and overseeing the evaluation of the SIM intervention.

In addition to the SIM Work Group, there are three SIM subcommittees:

- The Intervention Subcommittee,
- Data/IT Subcommittee,
- Patient Centered Medical Home and Accountable Systems of Care (PCMH/ASC) Subcommittee.

The Intervention Subcommittee meets twice monthly, and other groups meet monthly.

The Intervention Subcommittee is charged with developing the community-clinical linkages intervention. The intervention is designed to reduce emergency



upon referral CDC staff contacted patients to schedule an appointment for follow-up care.

The Acute Dental Care Subcommittee sought \$100,200 in total funding to complete the project. The University Of Michigan School Of Dentistry contributed a \$5,000 in-kind donation for the pilot's operation, and the remaining funding was provided by the Washtenaw Health Plan. This funding covered direct expenses to treat uninsured patients participating in the pilot and was calculated based on a capitated treatment cost of \$400 per patient per episode of care.

The project ran from October 2014 through January 2016. A total of 545 patients were referred in that time, and 84% of the referrals accurately met the referral criteria. Of the correct patient referrals, 232 patients had at least one visit to the CDC. The majority of patients referred through the program were uninsured and relied on program funds to pay for the dental care they received. Throughout the duration of the program, there was an increase in the number of patients referred that were enrolled in Medicaid.

Overall, the Acute Dental Care Initiative proved to be an effective program. With a relatively modest investment, a number of patients were able to address their acute dental care needs as well as additional dental work recommended by CDC dentists. The program generated high levels of satisfaction from UMHS and

department utilization by connecting medical and social services to address the social determinants of health.

The subcommittee has identified an intervention target population of approximately 2,000 patients (see the diagram to the right). The subcommittee is also developing an evaluation design.

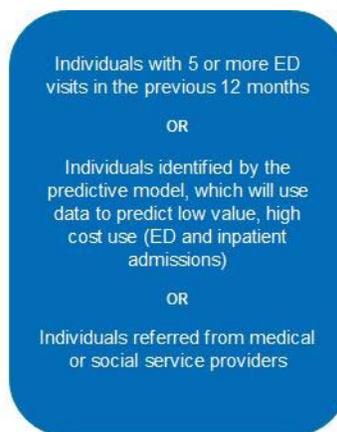
The Data/IT Subcommittee is working to understand what data are available, where data can be stored, and how data can be used to determine the target population and subsequently screen the target population for appropriate intervention(s).

Finally, the ASC/PCMH Subcommittee is charged with providing a communication linkage among various components of the SIM, to assist with PCMH components of the community-clinical linkage project, and to work on sustainability of the community-clinical linkage project through exploring payment models. This group is currently working on identifying tools to screen patients for social needs.

## ***Being Mortal* Film Screening held in October**

The WHI Advance Care Planning Work Group sponsored an event hosted by Arbor Hospice featuring *Being Mortal*, a film documenting Dr. Atul Gawande's exploration of the practice of caring for the dying and their relationships with the doctors, nurses and family members who care for them. The film is available for viewing on the [PBS website](#) and Dr. Gawande's book, *Being Mortal*, is available for [purchase](#).

The film was followed by a panel, moderated by Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, who reflected on her own experiences with Advance Care Planning with her husband, former US House of Representatives Member, John



*SIM Intervention Target Population*



SJMHS staff as well patients referred through the program, and many staff members at both hospitals advocated for the program to be permanently supported.

Despite the effectiveness of the program, approximately 40% of the patients contacted by the CDC did not receive care at the CDC, suggesting that those patients faced barriers other than cost that prevented them from receiving care at the CDC. Future program implementations might explore alternative methods of alleviating barriers to receiving care in addition to cost, such as transportation, childcare, or fear of dentists.

To learn more about the Acute Dental Care Initiative, contact Ruth Kraut at [krautr@ewashtenaw.org](mailto:krautr@ewashtenaw.org).

Congratulations to the workgroup on the completion of the successful pilot of the Acute Dental Care Initiative!

Dingell. Panelists responded to questions from audience members and shared their insights.

Panelists included:

- Dr. Thomas O'Neil, Arbor Hospice medical director
- Khristian Smith-Speelman, Arbor Hospice volunteer and community counselor
- Merilynne Rush, Respecting Choices advanced care planning facilitator and Death Cafe Ann Arbor organizer
- Beth Spencer, LMSW at Turner Geriatric Center
- Dr. Genevieve Stewart, medical director for palliative care at Saint Joseph Mercy Health System

The Michigan Theater was near capacity, with approximately 1,000 people in attendance for the film screening and discussion. If you attended, please watch for a survey in your email to provide feedback on the event!



The event also highlighted the Advance Care Planning conversation guide "Making Your Healthcare Wishes Known," developed by the WHI Advance Care Planning Work Group. The guide provides direction in how to have conversations with loved ones and with medical staff about your healthcare wishes, and provides information about documenting your health care wishes. The guide can be found on the [WHI website](#), and can be printed or used electronically at no cost.

Thank you to all who attended the event and to all of the volunteers for helping to make this event a successful and meaningful experience for all!

## Upcoming Events

### Bright Nights: An Opioid Crisis in Washtenaw County

WHI Opioid Project Co-Chair Dr. Stephen Strobbe, Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Michigan School of Nursing and Department of Psychiatry, will give a brief presentation on the Opioid Crisis in Washtenaw County. The presentation will be followed by a panel discussion. This Bright Nights community forum event will be hosted by the U-M Depression Center from 7:00 - 8:30

#### Quick Links



- [WHI Website](#)
- [WHI Member Portal](#)

- [Center for Healthcare Research & Transformation](#)

## Upcoming Member Meetings & Other Events

### November

- 1 - SIM Data/IT Subcommittee (3-4pm, CHRT)
- 3 - UNITE Meeting (3-4 PM, CHRT)
- 4 - SIM ASC/PCMH Subcommittee Meeting (8:30 - 9:30am, CHRT)
- 4 - SIM Co-Chair Meeting (11-12pm, CHRT)
- 8 - SIM Intervention Subcommittee (1-2pm, CHRT)
- 11 - WHI Steering Committee Meeting (2:30 - 4 PM, CHRT)
- 14 - WHI MMOE Work Group Meeting (10-11:30am, United Way - 2305 Platt Rd, Ann Arbor, MI)
- 14 - WHI CCDS Meeting (3-4:30pm, CHRT)
- 18 - WHI Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder Work Group Meeting (3-4:30, CHRT)
- 15 - WHI Advance Care Planning Project Meeting (11-noon, CHRT)
- 15 - Bright Nights Event (7-8:30pm, downtown Ann Arbor District Library, No registration required)
- 21 - SIM Work Group Meeting (10-11:30 AM, CHRT)
- 22 - WHI Primary Care and Safety Net Work Group Meeting (2-3:30pm, CHRT)
- 22 - Dawn Farm Education Series (7:30 - 9:00pm, 5305 Elliot Dr. Ypsilanti, MI 28197)
- 28 - WHI Finance Committee Meeting (3-4 PM, CHRT)
- 29 - SIM Intervention Subcommittee (1-2pm, CHRT)

### December

- 2 - SIM ASC/PCMH Subcommittee Meeting (8:30 - 9:30am, CHRT)
- 2 - SIM Co-Chair Meeting (11-12pm, CHRT)
- 6 - SIM Data/IT Subcommittee (3-4pm, CHRT)
- 8 - WHI Advance Care Planning Project Meeting (2:30-4pm, CHRT)

pm on November 15 at the downtown Ann Arbor District Library (Corner of S. Fifth Ave. and William) in the multipurpose room.

Dr. Strobbe's presentation and the panel discussion will focus on raising and responding to the following questions:

- Is there really an opioid epidemic in Washtenaw County?
- What is the Washtenaw Health Initiative (WHI) Opioid Project?
- What can I do in my own home, and community, to help?

The event is open to the public and free to attend! More information about this event, and other Bright Night topics and dates can be found on the [UM Depression Center's website](#).

## Dawn Farm Education Series -In Our Midst: The Opioid Epidemic, and a Community Response



Dr. Stephen Strobbe, co-chair of the WHI Opioid Project, will again be presenting on the Opioid Epidemic at the [Dawn Farm Education Series](#) on **November 22 from 7:30 - 9:00 PM**. At this event you can learn about the opioid epidemic in our midst, and what we are doing as a community to respond.

Dr. Strobbe will discuss factors that have contributed to a national opioid epidemic, rates and patterns of opioid overdose deaths in Washtenaw County, areas of focus for the Washtenaw Health Initiative (WHI) Opioid Project, and actions that can be taken to be part of the solution.

The event is free to attend and is located at the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti Michigan 48197. Please Park in parking area P.

No registration is required.

9 - WHI Steering Committee Meeting (2:30 - 4 PM, CHRT)  
12 - WHI MMOE Work Group Meeting (10-11:30am, United Way - 2305 Platt Rd, Ann Arbor, MI)  
13 - SIM Intervention Subcommittee (1-2pm, CHRT)  
16 - WHI Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder Work Group Meeting (3-4:30, CHRT)  
19 - SIM Work Group Meeting (10-11:30 AM, CHRT)  
27 - SIM Intervention Subcommittee (1-2pm, CHRT)  
27 - WHI Primary Care and Safety Net Work Group Meeting (2-3:30pm, CHRT)

## About the Washtenaw Health Initiative

The [Washtenaw Health Initiative](#) is a voluntary, county-wide collaboration focused on how to improve access to coordinated care for the low-income, uninsured, and Medicaid populations. The effort includes representatives from the University of Michigan Health System, Saint Joseph Mercy Health System, VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System, health plans, county government, community services, physicians, and safety net providers.

[Washtenaw Health Initiative](#)  
(734) 998-7567

## Share Your Story

Share your story ideas for the WHI newsletter with Carrie at (734) 998-7567 or [crheinga@umich.edu](mailto:crheinga@umich.edu)

## Join Our Mailing List

The [Dawn Farm](#) Education Series is described as a free, annual education series developed to provide accurate, helpful, hopeful, practical, current information about chemical dependency, recovery, family and related issues. The Ed Series dispels the myths, misinformation, secrecy, shame and stigma that prevent chemically dependent individuals and their families from getting help and getting well.

You can find more information, and a full list of series dates and topics on the [Dawn Farm Website](#).

## Other News

### Health Insurance Marketplace: Open Enrollment 2017

On November 1, 2016 open enrollment begins through the Health Insurance Marketplace. This is an opportunity for individuals to enroll, re-enroll, or change their health insurance coverage for 2017. For insurance coverage to begin January 1, 2017, individuals must enroll by December 15, 2016. The Health Insurance Marketplace can be accessed at [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov).

The Washtenaw Health Initiative has been working to help individuals in the community get enrolled! The Medicaid/Marketplace Outreach and Enrollment Work Group has been recruiting and training U-M Students to assist in helping community members enroll in coverage.

To date, approximately 20 students have participated. The students were mostly graduate students from the U-M School of Public Health, Ford School of Public Policy, School of Social Work, Law School, College of Pharmacy and Medical School.

The Work Group is currently scheduling on-campus enrollment events with University Health Services and is planning a community-based enrollment event in the coming months. More information about these enrollment events will be made available soon!

For questions about the enrollment events or to get involved, contact Megan Foster Friedman, the CHRT staff support for the Medicaid/Marketplace Outreach and Enrollment Work Group, at [mfosterf@med.umich.edu](mailto:mfosterf@med.umich.edu).

Washtenaw Health Initiative, c/o Center for Healthcare Research & Transformation,  
2929 Plymouth Rd. Ste. 245, Ann Arbor, MI 48105

[SafeUnsubscribe™ crheinga@med.umich.edu](mailto:SafeUnsubscribe™_crheinga@med.umich.edu)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [crheinga@med.umich.edu](mailto:crheinga@med.umich.edu) in collaboration with



Try it free today