

Presents

*Increasing Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Workforce
in Eastern Oregon: Outcomes, Lessons Learned & Next Steps*

Speakers:

Meredith Lair, Executive Director at Northeast Oregon Area Health Education Center (NEOAHEC)
Patricia Barfield, PhD., Assistant Professor of Nursing, OHSU School of Nursing, La Grande campus.

Our top partners



WIPFLI



Increasing Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Workforce in Eastern Oregon



Northeast Oregon
Area Health Education Center



**Healthy Oregon Workforce
Training Opportunity Grant**



Learning Objectives

Outcomes, Lessons Learned & Next Steps

- Identify the educational model necessary to successfully expand the PMHNP academic program to a virtual model meeting students' needs in rural and remote eastern Oregon.
- Differentiate the roles of the regional networks collaborating to expand the PMHNP program and discuss the essential ingredients to expand other academic programs to serve rural and frontier Oregon.

Presenters

Meredith Lair, BS

Executive Director

Northeast Oregon Area Health
Education Center (NEOAHEC)



Patty Barfield, Ph.D., PMHNP-BC

Campus Associate Dean &

Associate Professor

OHSU School of Nursing La Grande





Expanding Access to Education

This presentation will focus on the outcomes, lessons learned, and next steps in the innovative expansion of the OHSU Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) program to Eastern Oregon during the Pandemic.

Grant Goals:

- **Goal 1:** Increase the mental health workforce of PMHNPs serving eastern Oregon
- **Goal 2:** Establish distance learning and clinical placement sites throughout identified counties in eastern Oregon
- **Goal 3:** Continuously improve project outcomes using Rapid Cycle Quality Improvement processes using learner assessments and program evaluation data

Eastern Oregon

Eastern Oregon is a vast and geographically isolated part of the state where the distance people travel for healthcare includes mountain passes, large canyons, no cellular service, and can exceed 75 miles.

Generally healthcare providers in the region are scarce and mental health providers that can diagnose and have prescriptive authority to treat mental illness are in acute need.



Place Bound Learning

- ▶ Learners are place bound because of
 - ▶ Economic limitations
 - ▶ Family obligations
 - ▶ Discomfort living outside of their rural setting
- ▶ Limitations of place bound potential workforce:
 - ▶ More challenging to “grow our own” by lack of high-quality advanced degree training programs in rural locations



How did this grant come together?

- Quickly and without anticipation of a global pandemic
- By convening workforce, community, and education partners
- With a vision for the future - targeting individuals already embedded in the region and advancing their education





Roles of Grant Partners

- ▶ NEOAHEC
 - ▶ Grant recipient & manager
 - ▶ Student recruitment & support
 - ▶ Student scholarships
- ▶ OHSU School of Nursing
 - ▶ Curriculum development
 - ▶ Student recruitment & support
 - ▶ Preceptor & clinical rotation development
- ▶ EOCCO/GOBHI
 - ▶ Student scholarships
 - ▶ Clinical placements
 - ▶ Employer



The Program Curriculum

- Three years to the doctoral degree (DNP)
- APRN* specialty in Psych-mental health
 - Focus on lifespan with some specialization possible (such as children, adolescents, substance use disorders, geropsychiatry)
- Practice across all settings (acute-urgent/emergent to outpatient)

What distinguishes the OHSU program?

- Practice-Ready* internships are great but OHSU grads don't need them to get started right out of the gate! Practiced teamwork in curriculum
- Evidence-Based critical judgement based on current and evolving science
- Future-Focused adaptable to new models of care & systems change
- Leadership-Oriented systems focused, leads teams, leads change





The PMHNP after graduation

- Graduates are in high demand
 - Graduates work in all types of settings including OP mental health, integrated primary care, inpatient, residential
 - All students are employed by graduation, if desired
 - Certification pass rates have been 100% over the past 15 years
- 

Meet the Students

Cohort 1



Jacki Russell
Wallowa, OR



Darren
Rancharan
Salem, OR

Cohort 2



Nicole Billman
La Grande,
OR



Toni Bleick
Irrigon, OR

Cohort 3



Mandelynn
Pray
The Dalles, OR



Lessons Learned

- ▶ Place bound learning is still difficult
 - ▶ Some intensive clinical experiences located out of town
 - ▶ DNP education is rigorous and requires a significant commitment of time
 - ▶ Lack of awareness of the professional responsibilities
- ▶ Capacity of community to support loss of a provider to gain a provider
- ▶ Preceptor willingness

The Way Forward

- Ongoing scholarship fund has been established
- OHSU School of Nursing has committed to continuing a distance option
- NEOAHEC will continue to support student recruitment





Questions & Comments

Thank You to All of our Partners!



Workability One

inQuiseek

OHA Oral Health

NEON

Grand Canyon University