



CCCWN News

January 2022

Local medical school integrates community service into traditional medical education

The days of “doctor knows best” are waning as medical professionals across the U.S. increasingly understand the intricate relationship between social determinants of health, community, clinical care, and health outcomes. In short, good medical care does not—cannot—exist in a vacuum, and the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific Northwest (COMP-NW) exemplifies this understanding by embracing an innovative, “whole person, whole community” approach to training new generations of clinicians.

COMP-NW, a non-profit private medical school that opened its doors in 2011, is a branch campus of Western University of Health Sciences’ College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific located in Lebanon and operates in partnership with Samaritan Health Services. Graduates of COMP-NW earn a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) and are conferred all the same clinical privileges of a Doctor of Medicine (MD); the difference lies in the philosophic approach. MD training is more research-based, where DO curriculum is more hands-on and focuses on preventive health through a “mind, body, and spirit” philosophy—treating the whole person, not just the symptoms.

A critical component of the COMP-NW curriculum is its Community Engagement and Service Learning Education, which strengthens medical education and emphasizes forging strong community relationships. Medical students are required to complete 30 hours of community service with a community organization, allowing them to develop these important relationships with the same people who will someday be key allies in the common goal of improving overall health. And as providers, they will have a strong knowledge of community services and resources and be able to better refer out to services that support their patients’ wellbeing. This “hands-on” model also helps students better understand the connection to population health, and by working with people who may eventually be their patients, allows them to develop more compassionate, preventive health relationships with their future patients.



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COMP-NW continued...

These community impact projects have spanned a variety of organizations and efforts, including successfully hosting a rural health fair at a local Walmart; providing healthy lifestyle workshops and other nutrition, exercise, and health education efforts at the Boys & Girls Club of the Greater Santiam, Lebanon Community Schools, Albany Helping Hands Homeless Shelter, and the Lebanon Soup Kitchen; engaging local youth and their parents to educate them on the importance of attending college; and supporting the Lebanon Fire District as EMTs, Fire Fighters, and First Responders. Through Planting Seeds of Change, which focuses on teaching school educators and community members about sustainable gardens and nutrition education, COMP-NW students developed a community refrigerator project to provide free, healthy food for community members.

The COMP-NW emphasis on community partnerships to help people access the resources and services they need to develop healthy lifestyles that combat and prevent illness dovetails well with the CCCWN mission to improve community health in Benton, Lincoln, and Linn counties. COMP-NW graduates, through integrating classroom education, service learning, and community engagement become compassionate providers and leaders in their communities who further develop and sustain a network of integrated services and programs with partner organizations and agencies that work to promote population health.

Member Spotlight: Jeannie Davis

Jeannie Davis, Ed.D, wearer of many hats, is an impassioned educator and an avid promoter of community and population health in rural and underserved areas. As an Assistant Professor of Community Health in the Population Health Department at COMP-NW, Dr. Davis is instrumental in guiding the development of new generations of Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) to be leaders in community engagement and population health. In fact, she's been part of the COMP-NW medical school at Western University of Health Sciences for almost 12 years—even before its first cohort walked through the doors. Though her current duties focus on teaching community health—she instructs Lifestyle Medicine, Business in Medicine, and Global Health classes within the COMP-NW elective program—she also champions community development through her extensive outreach and participation in a variety of working groups and coalitions throughout the tri-county region. As Chair of the Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Partners for Health, she is integral to the success of the group's annual community health summit, held each August. Dr. Davis came to health education by a slightly unorthodox route; her background is in Criminal Justice, and she's worked as a Budget Analyst and a Licensed Tax Preparer. She holds a BS in Business Administration and Accounting, an MPA in Public Administration, and a Doctor in Educational Management. And ever the walker of the walk and talker of the talk, she has bona fide rural creds—the booming metropolis of Lebanon is the largest community she's ever lived in. (She grew up in the tiny community of Blue River, OR, which tragically burned up in the recent Oregon wildfires.) When she's not tirelessly working to promote health as more than just the absence of disease, she somehow finds the energy to do CrossFit.



Monthly Updates

Bridges to Recovery

The Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians filled their harm reduction specialist and peer support mentor vacancies in December 2021. The Safe+Strong media campaign, in partnership with RC-SWAY, Measure 110, and OHA will kick off in late January 2022.

Regional Assessment and Implementation Disaster (RAID) plan

The RAID Grant will file a no-cost extension in January 2022 to ensure the full \$200,000 will be spent. The team will hold a hybrid table top/drill event in March or April to further prepare communities in the region for emergencies. The grant will also present its efforts and successes to the RCORP-Planning III Learning Collaborative meeting in February.

Oral Health Co-Location

The first progress report is due to HRSA by Jan. 31, 2022. The Expanded Practice Dental Hygienist at SNLH has seen 87 patients at the hospital as of December 31, 2021. SHS credentialing is in process for the EPDH and overseeing dentist for SPCH; program activities will commence on schedule in Spring 2022.

Rural Communities Supporting Women and Youth

Amanda “Mandy” True, a peer support specialist with Family Tree Relief Nursery, joined the team in December 2021. Linn County Alcohol and Drug has been providing Life Skills training classes in 4th and 6th grade classrooms and is recruiting for a second instructor. The tri-county media campaign to reduce Substance Use Disorder-related stigma will resume planning efforts in January with Brink Communications.

Measure 110

Jolynn Meza Wynkoop stepped in as Project Coordinator in December 2021. The first round of the M110 Access to Care grant will come to an end on March 31, 2022. The M110 Regional Group continue to meet to plan Behavioral Health Resource Network (BHRN) efforts and pursue OHA funding opportunities.

Samaritan Treatment and Recovery Services (STARS) Rural Outreach

The grant is in a no-cost extension period. The Self-Assessment report was completed on December 13, 2021. The grant will be drafting a Closeout report and Sourcebook, and the outreach team will continue to serve the community, decrease barriers for the target population, distribute Narcan, and educate community partners.

Parenting Success Network

Winter 2022 Menu:

- Abriendo Puertas- *Spanish 0-12 yr*
- Nurturing Parenting: Special Needs & Health Challenges- *In partnership with Family Promise of Lincoln Co for families with 0-12 yrs*
- Nurturing Parenting Skills- *In partnership with Seashore Family Literacy Center for families w/ 0-8 yrs*

Ongoing supports include:

- Spanish Parenting Coaching
Llame a Luis (541) 220-9686
- Triple P Primary Care
Email Sommer smcleish@samhealth.org
- Triple P Online
Email Sommer smcleish@samhealth.org or llame a Luis (541) 220-9686

Parenting classes are for *ALL* families!
ALL families can benefit from learning new skills and *ALL* families can benefit connecting with other parents!

Questions and Comments?

For questions and comments related to the monthly CCCWN Newsletter, please email Shelagh Baird at sbaird@samhealth.org

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