

Project Abstract

Title: Program for Improving Care of Aging adults through Training and Education (PICATE)

Applicant Organization: Regents of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Address: 11000 Kinross Avenue, Suite 211, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1406

Project Director: Zaldy S. Tan, MD

Contact Numbers: (310) 825-8253 (phone); (310) 794-2199 (Fax)

E-Mail Address: ztan@mednet.ucla.edu

Funding Preference Requested: Substantial Benefit for Rural or Underserved Populations

Project Period: July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018

Collaborating Partners: University of California, Los Angeles (prime); Riverside County Regional Medical Center; Riverside County Department of Public Social Services

Trainee Types: Health professions providers, students, residents, fellows, faculty, patients, families, caregivers, direct care workers

Overview: The Program for Improving Care of Aging adults through Training and Education (PICATE) is a collaborative project between primary care clinics/community-based organizations/educational institutions located in a large, underserved region of inland Southern California and an applicant organization that has a long track record of effecting improvements in health outcomes for older adults through geriatric integration into primary care and health workforce education and training.

Objectives: (1) To improve older patient/caregiver outcomes through integration of geriatric care management in primary care teaching clinics; (2) To develop and deploy an interprofessional geriatrics workforce curriculum for trainees and chronic care teams representing the fields of medicine, nursing, social work and other health professions; (3) To create an evidence-based, sustainable education program for direct care workers, patients, families and caregivers, especially for persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

Methods: Inland Southern California is a geographically large, ethnically diverse and rapidly-growing region that has the state's greatest shortage of primary care physicians. Riverside County is the largest county in this region (roughly the size of New Jersey in total area) and has more residents than 15 of the U.S. states. Riverside County has a large and rapidly-growing geriatric population but has a paucity of aging resources, services and geriatric expertise. We will integrate geriatrics into 3 primary care teaching clinics of Riverside County Regional Medical Center through the care management of older patient with dementia and/or mobility issues. Patient/caregiver outcomes to be tracked include falls frequency and severity, dementia-related behavioral problems, caregiver stress/depression and self-efficacy. Clinical trainees in medicine, nursing, social work and other disciplines will be incorporated into this model through participation in patient screening, care management, home visits and interprofessional education. Patient and family engagement will be ensured through online education and partnership with community organizations. With supplemental ADRD funding, direct workforce and caregiver training will be provided through blended learning for In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) workers, particularly those caring for persons with dementia. In Year 2, we will form partnerships with the Tribal healthcare project in Riverside County with the goal of initiating intensive and on-site educational programs to Indian Health Service (IHS) and Tribal staff. Sustainability beyond the grant period will be ensured through training of future trainers, producing enduring online training materials and preferentially addressing local and regional priorities.