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Integrative Health Learning Community to Continue into 2022

DAYTON, OHIO – Since fall of 2020, the Family Medicine Education Consortium (FMEC) has convened its [Integrative Health Learning Community](#), graciously supported and led by the [Samueli Foundation](#). Thanks to the continued support and leadership of the Samueli Foundation, the FMEC is extending its work with a subset of practices and clinics through spring of 2022.

In the summer of 2020, the FMEC invited family medicine residencies, federally qualified health centers and other clinics, and independent and hospital-owned primary care practices to join a one-year learning collaborative (LC) for implementing and testing tools for whole person integrative health practices in routine primary care. The purpose of the FMEC learning collaborative (LC) has been to implement integrative health care using the HOPE Toolkit for enhancing non-pharmacological approaches to pain and opioid use or other chronic diseases.

Nearly 20 sites were accepted into the collaborative, which completed a year of educational sessions and quality improvement cycles in September 2021. During a preconference at the FMEC 2021 Annual Meeting in October 2021, faculty members and sites share their successes and challenges. Every site reporting found that the experience helped them improve care and healing. Many notes plans to introduce the strategies into residency training, and they also reported that patients appreciated the information they received about non-drug and other services.

Beginning in November 2021, a cohort of sites agreed to continue to work with Dr. Wayne Jonas of the Samueli Foundation and the other faculty during an extension period, where they will continue to explore issues such as defining team roles and responsibilities in integrative care; securing leadership support and making the “business case” and the role of technology including electronic medical records and apps.

The Integrative Health Learning Community is one of the FMEC’s many learning communities and collaborative projects that are using innovations and shared learning to advance family medicine and primary care. For more information on the FMEC’s quality initiatives, contact FMEC CEO Scott Allen at scott.allen@fmec.net.

About the Family Medicine Education Consortium

The Family Medicine Education Consortium, Inc. (FMEC) is a catalyst, convener, and incubator that connects family physicians and other stakeholders to improve the health communities by strengthening family medicine, primary care and medical education. The FMEC serves 14 states and the District of Columbia in the northeast region of the U.S., working with 60 medical school departments of family medicine, 170 family medicine residency programs, and thousands of family physicians and other health care providers in community settings. Through an Annual Meeting for nearly 1,000 health professionals, annual awards, learning communities, and quality improvement projects, the FMEC inspires medical students to seek careers in family medicine, strengthens academic family medicine through faculty development and leadership experiences, and stimulates innovative approaches to primary care service delivery.

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