

June 2017

Special points of interest:

- 2017 WVPBRN Retreat
- WV Diabetic Retinopathy project receives national recognition
- New Co-Director, WVPBRN

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2017 WVPBRN Annual Retreat Recap

The WVPBRN held its 4th Annual Retreat at Stonewall Resort, April 6-7. There were 30 individuals in attendance during the day long retreat with an agenda that focused on highlighting the work of the Network, as well as planning for the future of the group. William Lewis, MD, Harpers Ferry Family



Medicine, and Jennifer Boyd, PA, New River Health Association and the WV Primary Care Association, were introduced as the upcoming Co-Directors for the Network. They will assume their roles this summer.

This year, the Network held a poster session to highlight all of the great work done in the Network sites. We had 9 posters representing projects that the Network has participated in over the



last couple of years. These posters included community and academically-led projects that have been supported by the WVPBRN. It was a great chance to highlight the efforts of the Network that had resulted in new discoveries, changed policies, and identified new best practices.

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Diabetic Retinopathy Project Highlighted Nationally

The WV Diabetic Retinopathy project has seen many successes since implementation began in January of 2016.

Ron Gross, MD, Dana King, MD, and Jonathan Kline, PharmD, are co-investigators on this multi-site and multi-level project to improve patient diabetic retinopathy outcomes by increasing access to retinal screening scans in a primary care setting, leading to early detection and treatment.

As this project moves forward, information will impact patients' detection and treatment of diabetic retinopathy, clinical patient quality measures, distribution and use of ophthalmic resources and policy changes around the state.

A full case study of the project was released in June and can be found at [IRIS WV Case Study Report](#).



The mission of the WVPBRN is to improve the health of West Virginians by collaborating with primary care practices to conduct translational practice-based research.



2017 WVPBRN Annual Retreat Recap (cont'd)

A panel discussion, led by Adam Baus, PhD, of the WVU School of Public Health, Office of Health Services Research, focused on partnership building with other Network groups and organizations that share membership,



missions, and goals with the WVPBRN. Representatives on the panel included Jennifer Boyd, PA, West Virginia Primary Care Association, Phil Saul, MD, WV Pediatric Trials Network, Mathew Weimer, MD, West Virginia Alliance for Creative Health Solutions, Jacquelynn Copenhaver, WV Rural Health Association, and Drema Mace, PhD, Regional Health Alliances. We continue to identify ways to partner in more deliberate ways.

The agenda also included a session on discussing patient engagement strategies that the Network can begin to utilize over the next year. Geri Dino, PhD, WVU School of Public Health, Office of Health Services Research, Trea Haggerty, MD, WVU Family Medicine, and Jennifer Boyd, PA, have held discussions of strategies to prepare a recently submitted PCORI patient engagement proposal. They led the discussion from ideas they had identified and incorporated ideas from the entire group.



The final session of the day was an activity to narrow the focus. Participants were asked to identify the topic health needs facing primary care in WV and discuss in small groups. Nearly all groups identified addiction in some way. However, the groups had differing perspectives on where to start, which ended in a great discussion.

The retreat attendees outlined goals for the coming year and next steps to achieve those goals can be found on the [WVPBRN Website](#).



WVPBRN Member Highlight: Jennifer Boyd, PA-C

Jennifer Boyd, PA-C is a provider at New River Health Association and been member of the WVPBRN since 2014. She also serves as the Director of Clinical Quality for the WV Primary Care Association (WVPCA). She works with the WVPCA's CMO Committee and Quality Leadership Committee and assists health centers with practice transformation and quality improvement. She has been instrumental within New River Health to

implement practice transformation and achievement of National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) recognition.

Jennifer has been a part of several WVPBRN projects, including WV Project ECHO and the patient engagement initiative. She has also served on the WVPBRN General Advisory Committee since 2013, and is assuming the role of co-director of the

Network in July of this year, alongside Dr. Bill Lewis from Harpers Ferry Family Medicine.



“Rural healthcare providers working in community health clinics are the key to improving the health and healthcare of West Virginia”

-Arnie Hassen, PhD

Guided Imagery Perceptions of the WVPBRN

Peter Giacobbi (Ph.D.) recently partnered with the WVPBRN on a research study aimed to gain feedback from clinicians in the WV PBRN about patients' use of guided imagery in clinical settings. Dr. Giacobbi is a faculty member in the West Virginia School of Public Health, the College of Physical Activity and Sport Sciences, and a member of the WV Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute. He is the Deputy Director of the WV Prevention Research Center.

Guided imagery is the controlled visualization of specific thoughts, images, experiences, and emotions of actual, future, or imaginary events. It is often used to help individuals cope with stress and pain.

Fifteen respondents offered feedback. Of these, 11 (73.3 percent) were coded as clinicians expressing positive views about the potential for using guided imagery in clinical practice, 3 (20.0 percent) were unsure, and 1 (6.7 percent) expressed negative views. All responses to the second open-ended survey question about barriers and facilitators regarding the use of guided imagery in clinical practice focused on barriers. These included lack of time, knowledge, training patient acceptance, and concerns of reimbursement.

The information provided is being used in a future manuscript and the WVPBRN. In the future, we hope that guided imagery could prove useful in your clinical practice by providing patients.



WVPBRN

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Practice-Based Research Network

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West Virginia Practice-Based Research Network



Announcements

Please visit the newly updated [WVPBRN Projects](#) webpage! The Network is working to provide a place to disseminate and share project results and successes to the larger group. Check the site often as we continue to update and share dissemination tools and materials for each project.

If you have any suggestions/feedback, please contact Stacey Whanger (swhanger@hsc.wvu.edu) or Andrew Denny (adenny1@hsc.wvu.edu).