The Institute of Medicine reports that approximately 100 million people in the US suffer from chronic pain at an estimated cost of $560-635 billion per year. Parallel to this issue is the significant rise in opioid prescription use and abuse in the United States. Chronic pain is a major public health issue with a complex interaction between biological, psychological, and social factors. Providers in the State of Kansas also struggle with this complex chronic disease and have expressed a need for education in the assessment and management of this patient population. The IOM report suggests creation of educational programs to help improve the management of chronic pain. Our initiative seeks to provide a multistep, multiyear, multidisciplinary strategy to bridge this gap.

KANSAS PARTNERSHIP FOR PAIN MANAGEMENT

The Kansas Partnership for Pain Management is a multidisciplinary group comprised of individuals from family medicine, anesthesiology/pain medicine, psychology, emergency medicine, pathology, psychiatry, nursing, education, pharmacy, chiropractic groups, bioethics, various state and federal agencies who studied Kansas healthcare provider and Kansas healthcare related agency concerns regarding the assessment and management of chronic pain. This assessment revealed almost unanimous concern regarding the need for pain management education. A comprehensive state-wide foundational conference (completed); second 1-2 day primary care conferences and intensives; and third quality/performance improvement (QI) projects at the practice level. The first phase of the plan has been completed with a conference in November 2014. Attendance was excellent with a diverse group of 265 healthcare providers. The conference utilized patient interviews, discussions, role play, video vignettes and case presentations.

BACKGROUND

EDUCATIONAL MODEL

A Statewide Initiative to Improve the Management of Chronic Pain: The Kansas Partnership for Pain Management

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