

## **Caring for ME Clinician Leadership Program: Supporting Clinical Leaders to Address the Opioid Crisis in Maine**

Maine Quality Counts (QC) is offering a unique opportunity for Maine clinicians (Physicians, NPs, and PAs) to improve their ability to respond to public health crises, with a focus on leading change to address the opioid epidemic.

With support from a grant from the Physicians Foundation, QC is working with the Maine Medical Association over the next two years to offer an opportunity for up to thirty medical providers across the state to develop leadership skills to impact a range of public health issues, and specifically to develop stronger skills to lead practice and policy change needed to address the opioid epidemic. The program will also be coordinated with the leadership work happening in the state with the Daniel Hanley Center for Health Leadership.

This program offers an important opportunity for health systems, hospitals, health centers, medical practices and other organizations to identify clinical leaders interested in cultivating their leadership skills needed to bridge health care practices and systems, community partners, and public health, and advance practice and policy change to improve population health.

Program goals include the following:

1. Provide clinicians with an understanding of the public health system and key community partners involved in the complex issues of substance use disorder (SUD) and addiction treatment.
2. Develop leadership skills needed to influence health policy and address public health crises, with a focus on the current opioid epidemic and the pressing need to address cultural bias and stigma related to SUD and addiction.
3. Mentor clinicians who are rising into leadership roles, and offer networking opportunities across the continuum of care to align initiatives across the state and increase the impact on population health.
4. Develop effective communication and marketing skills, including the use of social media, to more effectively influence public policy and opinion around critical health care issues.
5. Help clinicians understand how social determinants of health and poverty impact clinical and public health systems, and develop leadership strategies that acknowledge their role.
6. Develop resiliency and mindful leadership tactics to address clinician burnout and improve morale.

### **Expectations for Program Participants:**

- Register by September 30 via this [link](#)
- Attend introductory informational call: Fri, Sept 15 (8:30-9 AM, or 12N-12:30 PM) Click time to register
- Participate in Caring for ME Leadership Educational Meetings (CME credits available):
  - **November 8, 2017:** Caring for ME Leadership Kick-off Meeting (MMA, Manchester): gain a better understanding of the role of clinicians to address the opioid crisis and influence the public discourse on substance use disorder.
  - **April 4, 2017:** QC 2018 Conference (Augusta Civic Center): Caring for ME Leaders Breakout Session. The leadership group will have exclusive access to a discussion with one of the keynote speakers in a breakout session as part of the program.
  - **November 14, 2019:** Leadership Meeting at MMA
  - **April 3, 2019 :** QC 2019 Conference Breakout Session, Augusta Civic Center

- Participate in Clinician Leadership Circles: Participating medical providers will be invited to join “leadership circles” that offer an opportunity for peer mentoring, support, and problem-solving with experienced clinical leaders and peers; discussions will be held as one-hour conference calls three to four times a year, with the goal of helping participants develop effective skills and strategies at the practice, community, and/or state level.
  - Current Leadership Circle Peer Leaders include Drs. Noah Nesin, Dora Mills, Lisa Letourneau, Erik Steele and Amy Belisle
  - Program participants are also encouraged to serve as Leadership Circle Peer Leaders or Co-leaders; if interested, please indicate your interest when you register.
- Attend at least three Caring for ME educational webinars a year (to be held 12N -1 pm; dates TBD): webinars will address key policy, public health, and clinical issues related to the opioid epidemic; participants will be asked to contribute and apply learnings in Leadership Circles.
- Attend Caring for ME Leadership Group: QC convenes a Caring for ME Leadership Group monthly that brings together leaders and community stakeholders to provide updates on current efforts related to the opioid epidemic, share challenges and successes, and discuss opportunities for alignment. Program participants will be asked to join these meetings, which are held on the second Wednesday of each month (9-10 AM) via a web-based conference calls.
- Provide input on policy issues related to the opioid crisis, addiction treatment, and other relevant public health challenges.

#### **Background:**

QC is offering the Caring for ME Leaders Program as an opportunity for medical providers who have a basic foundation in leadership skills and would like to further develop their leadership in a way that strengthens essential competencies and advances their skills to address emerging population and public health issues. The program specifically offers an opportunity for clinicians to advance their ability to address the current public health crises presented by the opioid epidemic, and leverages tools, faculty and staff involved in our Caring for ME initiative. The program emphasizes peer relationship development, including mentoring younger clinicians and emerging leaders; engaging providers across medical and public health disciplines; building competencies to address social determinants of health; and building resilience – all skills important for emerging leaders when tackling complex problems in public health that involve stigma and face strong public resistance.

With a focus on the pressing issue of Maine’s current opioid crisis, participating clinicians will learn how to use their influence to change the course of a public health epidemic. They will work together to build a resilient network that can operate over the long term to turn the tide on the opioid crisis for the next generation. Recognizing that the opioid crisis requires a need to align care for pregnant women, newborns, adolescents, adults, and older adults being impacted, the program will bring together clinicians working with patients across the lifespan who are impacted by this public health crisis. By building skills critically needed in this work – e.g. leadership, relationship-building, teamwork, communication, participants will have an opportunity to leverage the work of the Caring for ME Initiative and take a leadership role in their communities to address this and future public health issues.

For more information or questions, please contact: Amy Belisle, MD, Medical Director, [abelisle@mainequalitycounts.org](mailto:abelisle@mainequalitycounts.org), Kayla Cole, Program Manager, [kcole@mainequalitycounts.org](mailto:kcole@mainequalitycounts.org), or Jackie Tiner, Administrative Coordinator, [jtiner@mainequalitycounts.org](mailto:jtiner@mainequalitycounts.org). Email: [caringforme@mainequalitycounts.org](mailto:caringforme@mainequalitycounts.org), 207-620-8526 ext. 1027. Information is posted on the [QC website](#).