



CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY

RESEARCH
AND ETHICS



CHPRE Newsletter

April 2015

Learn more about CHPRE:

Our Mission Statement

The mission of the Center for Health Policy, Research and Ethics is to develop independent research and innovative thought leadership to improve health policy and its impact on people's lives.

History of CHPRE

The Center for Health Policy Research and Ethics has been operational for about twenty-five years. Originally known as the Center for Health Policy, it was founded by Dr. Hazel Johnson-Brown, who was a former chief of the Army Nurse Corps and Director of Walter Reed Army Institute of Nursing.

Dr. Johnson Brown was succeeded by Dr. Mary Wakefield, who led the Center for six years, leaving to serve as Director of the Center for Rural Health at the University of North Dakota and as Associate Dean and Professor of Rural Health at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Science. Dr. Wakefield is currently the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

CHPRE pursues its mission through:

- Non-partisan Research
- Commentary and Public Speaking
- Technical Assistance to Public and Private Decision Makers
- Convening Public Forums

The Center for Health Policy merged with the Center for Ethics, which was headed by Dr. Mary Silva (ret.), to become the Center for Health Policy and Ethics. The affiliation of Dr. P.J. Maddox introduced the research component which ultimately changed CHPRE's name to the Center for Health Policy Research and Ethics.

Throughout the years, Dr. Mark Meiners was Director, followed by Prof. Tim Henderson, as Acting Director with Dr. Lisa Eckenwiler as the Director of Ethics. Dr. Len M. Nichols, joined CHPRE from the New America Foundation in March 2010, as its current Director.

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Center for Health Policy Research & Ethics

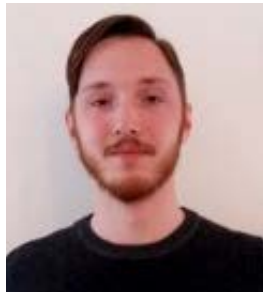
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For more about
CHPRE go to
chpre.org

Research | Active Projects



Iwona Kicinger



Brad Kells



Sriteja Burla



Kalahn Taylor-Clark

Evaluation of CareFirst's Patient Centered Medical Home Program \$5.4m *Jan.2013- Dec. 2017*

This project entails econometric analysis of claims and enrollment files, surveys of physicians and patients, and in-depth interviews with participating providers plus key CareFirst staff. Principal Investigator is Dr. Len M. Nichols.

Collaborators include:

Gilbert Gimm - Co-principal investigator, economist and associate professor in Mason's Department of Health Administration and Policy (HAP) in the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS)

Alison Cuellar - Economist & associate professor, HAP

Lorens Helmchen - Economist & associate professor, HAP

Kalahn Taylor-Clark - Consumer engagement expert and Director of Health Policy for the National Partnership for Women and Families

Margaret Rodan - Associate professor in Mason's School of Nursing, CHHS

Iwona Kicinger - Postdoctoral Research Fellow, CHPRE

Sriteja Burla & Brad Kells - Graduate Research Assistants

Jay Want - Physician and CEO of Colorado-based Physician Health Partners LLC and board chair of the Center for Improving Value in Health Care

Alan Newman Research - Richmond-based health survey experts

Our active research projects are of three types: Health Policy Research, Health Reform Implementation, and Health Policy Communication.

The purpose of health policy research is to improve health policy debates, policy development, and implementation. CHPRE work is directed at the national, state, and local levels, for all three have unique roles to play in enabling health policy to improve real people's lives. We research both health insurance and delivery system topics, wherein population health is an increasingly important focus since comprehensive health reform has become national policy.

Dr. Taylor-Clark Helps State Develop Accountable Health Communities

Dr. Taylor-Clark is helping Vermont form an Accountable Health Community that will help the state provide a more holistic approach to caring for its entire population.

Kalahn Taylor-Clark, a professor of the Department of Health Administration and Policy and senior advisor to the Center for Health Policy Research and Ethics at George Mason, received a \$50,000 grant from the Prevention Institute to serve as a strategic consultant on the Vermont contract.

An Accountable Health Community means having health-care providers, community-based organizations and social service agencies work in partnership to provide a continuum of services for communities in an effort to improve health outcomes and reduce avoidable hospitalizations for "at-risk" populations.

The idea is to find people in the community who are vulnerable and provide them not only with health care services they need, but also offer a continuum of services that contribute to better health outcomes, including housing and employment support, transportation access, food and nutrition, and improved mental and behavioral health supports, Taylor-Clark says. *-Jamie Rogers*

Read the entire article at chpre.org



Research | Active Projects



Stephen Petzinger

Using Payment Reform to Reduce Ethnic Health Disparities Among an Uninsured Population, \$488,000 *Oct. 2014-Oct. 2017*

This project of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, in collaboration with Fairfax County and Molina Health Care, who operates the Community Health Care Network clinics for the county, will test whether provider payment reform can engender more equal performance on the management of targeted clinical conditions.

Principal Investigator is Len M. Nichols.

In collaboration with GMU faculty

Kalahn Taylor-Clark, and GRA

Steven Petzinger.



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



Kyung Min Lee

Len Nichols and CHPRE Key Part of Virginia Team that won a State Innovation Model Grant from CMMI/CMS

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, the part of CMS created by the Affordable Care Act, announced in December 2014 that the Virginia Center for Health Innovation along with multiple partners, including the Center for Health Policy, Research & Ethics, was awarded a \$2.6 million federal grant to develop new statewide health care models built around a series of aggressive public health goals ranging from reductions in tobacco use to improved mental health care. Len Nichols' effort will be enhanced by that of two graduate research assistants on the project, Kyung Min Lee and Maryam Mohammed.

The one-year grant will provide financial and technical support beginning early this year to develop the Virginia Health Innovation Plan. The goal of the plan is to devise sustainable ways to lower cost, improve quality and improve health outcomes for all Virginians, regardless of insurance status.

The initiative will incorporate the following population health goals:

- Lower rates of tobacco use and obesity
- Prevention and management of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, respiratory disease and high-risk pregnancy
- Better care for selected mental and oral health conditions through improved integration with primary care



Maryam Mohammad

The Virginia Health Innovation Plan (VHIP) will be developed by the Virginia Center for Health Innovation (VCHI) in collaboration with public and private stakeholders and policy experts at consulting firms and universities including George Mason. More than 800 individuals and 300 organizations are already working collaboratively as part of VCHI's Virginia Health Innovation Network. Participants include health plans, telehealth organizations, education and research institutions, health care providers, pharmaceutical and laboratory companies, private businesses, and community and consumer organizations. CHPRE researchers' roles will be to help devise sustainable payment reforms to support the initiatives, help select metrics to be used by public and private stakeholders, help develop a sustainability plan for the overall initiative, and to lead the design of an evaluation strategy for the VHIP as a whole.



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Hot Topics

A Recurring Epidemic: Viewing Ebola and other Infectious Diseases through the Lens of Developing Health Systems

by Treniese Polk - September 2014

In this article, Treniese Polk, CHPRE Project Manager, discusses the Ebola epidemic, she gives context for the patient experience in a health system of a developing country, and explains how infectious diseases thrive under the climate and conditions of developing health systems, thus propelling epidemics. At the close of the article, Polk proposes forward-thinking strategies to combat future epidemics. *(Follow-up article coming soon.)*

Read the entire article at chpre.org/ethics

"I understood why some Mozambicans distrusted a healthcare system that frequently turned away patients because there were no available physicians or health staff or medical supplies and feared hospitals because of high mortality rates. Others evaded seeking medical treatment through public hospitals and instead turned to alternative medicine, traditional healers who could treat them in ways which often exposed them to unsafe, unsanitary, or medically unfounded practices."



Ebola Crisis of 2014: Are Current Strategies Enough to Meet the Long-Run Challenges Ahead?

by Gilbert Gimm, PhD, Len M. Nichols, PhD

The outbreak of the Ebola virus disease (EVD) in 2014 mobilized international efforts to contain a global health crisis. The emergence of the deadly virus in the United States and Europe among health care workers intensified fears of a world-wide epidemic. Market incentives for pharmaceutical firms to allocate their research and development resources toward Ebola treatments were weak because the limited number of EVD cases were previously confined to rural areas of West Africa. We discuss 3 policy recommendations to address the long-term challenges of EVD in an inter-connected world.

(Am J Public Health. Published online ahead of print March 19, 2015: e1–e3. doi:10.2105/AJPH.2015.302576)

American Journal of
**PUBLIC
HEALTH**

Issue Briefs

The issue brief is a neutral summary of what is known about a particular issue or problem. It states the issue for consideration; indicates a recommendation for action; provides supporting information relevant to the issue and recommendation and lists references for supporting information and other resources as necessary. A policy issue brief is about a public problem, one that may or already does affect, or is affected by, government.

Read entire briefs at chpre.org/issue_briefs

February 5, 2014

Enlisting States as Partners in Health Care Cost Savings

Stuart Butler, *Heritage Foundation*, David Kendall, *Third Way*, and Len M. Nichols, Ph.D, Director, CHPRE & Professor of Health Policy

September 19, 2014

Déjà vu?

The Debate Over Any Willing Provider Laws May Return, Sad To Say

Len M. Nichols, Ph.D, Director, CHPRE & Professor of Health Policy



Events | Spring 2015 Health Policy Seminar Series

Health Insurance Coverage Effects of Limiting Tax Exclusions Held on February 18, 2015

Alison Percy, Ph. D, *Principal Analyst, Congressional Budget Office*

Advance Directives and Health Care Use Held on March 25, 2015

Lauren Nicholas, Ph. D, *Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins University*

Join our next seminar!

April 20, 2015 • The Impact of Medicaid Expansions on Public Hospitals

Shawn Gremminger, MPP, *Director of Legislative Affairs, America's Essential Hospitals*

12:00 - 1:30 pm • Merten Hall, Room 1202

The Director | Dr. Len Nichols

Len Nichols has been the Director of the Center for Health Policy Research and Ethics (CHPRE) and a Professor of Health Policy at George Mason University since 2010, where he continues to bridge the worlds of health policy, health politics, health economics, health services research, and to help interpret it all for policy makers, private sector leaders, and journalists.

He is the Principal Investigator of a 5-year evaluation study of the CareFirst Patient Centered Medical Home program. He has testified frequently before Congress and state legislatures, and is or has been an advisor to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, the Patient Centered Primary Care Collaborative, and to the Pan American Health Organization.

He has worked with the Commonwealth's official Health Reform Initiative and the new Virginia Center for Health Innovation as well as with Fairfax County on its own health reform implementation options. Past positions include Senior Advisor for Health Policy at the Office of Management and Budget, Vice President of the Center for Studying Health System Change, Principal Research Associate at the Urban Institute, and chair of the Department of Economics at Wellesley College. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois.



**WELCOME
NEW CHPRE
Graduate Research
Assistants!**



Mathur Gandham



Sachin Garg



Meng-Hao Li

CHPRE Leadership & Staff

Dr. Len Nichols, *Director*

Dr. Kalahn Taylor-Clark, *Senior Advisor*

Treniese Polk, *Project Manager*

Iwonka Kicinger, *Postdoctoral Research Fellow*

Sriteja Burla, *Graduate Research Assistant*

Mathur Gandham, *Graduate Research Assistant*

Sachin Garg, *Graduate Research Assistant*

Kyung Min Lee, *Graduate Research Assistant*

Meng-Hao Li, *Graduate Research Assistant*

Brad Kells, *Graduate Research Assistant*

Maryam Mohammad, *Graduate Research Assistant*

Stephen Petzinger, *Graduate Research Assistant*

Barbara Marinaro, *Communication & Project Coordinator*

Nicole Bruenn, *Office Assistant*



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