ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDEES

Louisiana Department of Health, Bureau of Healthcare Financing (Medicaid) announced the six recipients for the 2023 Public University Partnership Program (PUPP) awards. Over $988,000 was awarded to researchers at Louisiana Tech University, McNeese State University and Louisiana State University A&M. Cumulatively, over $1.65M has been earmarked since the program’s inception last year to five Louisiana public universities to identify opportunities for Medicaid policy development and care delivery improvement.

Research Projects for the second funding cycle are:

1. McNeese State University (MSU): Principal Investigator: Joanna B. Thompson, Ph.D., BCBA-D, *“Meeting Technology Needs to Improve Access to High-Value Behavioral Healthcare”*
2. Louisiana State University A&M (LSU): Principal Investigator, Julia Buckner, Ph.D., *“The Impact of Motivation-Based Interventions for Substance Misuse for Medicaid Recipients in Inpatient Hospital Units.”*
3. Louisiana State University A&M (LSU): Principal Investigator, Austin Matthews, LCSW, *“Assessing Alternative Payment Models for Medicaid Behavioral Health Providers: Providing Screening Incentives to Inform Clinical Improvement and Client Outcomes.”*
4. Louisiana State University A&M (LSU): Principal Investigator, Janna Oetting, Ph.D., “Efficiency and Predictive Validity of an Alternative Screener for Head Start Medicaid Recipients.”
5. Louisiana State University A&M (LSU): Principal Investigator, Senlin Chen, Ph.D., “Mapping Behavioral and Social Determinants of Health to Inform Louisiana Medicaid Delivery.”
6. *Louisiana Tech University (LaTech): Principal Investigator Prerna Dua, Ph.D. “A Predictive Mining Approach to Analyze the Impact of COVID-19 on Smoking.”*

Current research topics range from evaluating new technologies for autism care to mapping resource needs for children, and assessing perceptions of abandoning the use of diabetes devices.

All Louisiana public colleges or universities are eligible to submit a proposal. Successful proposals identify opportunities to evaluate or inform on Medicaid priorities, such as childhood health and development, health equity, chronic disease and evidence-based care, maternal/infant outcomes, or behavioral health and substance abuse treatment. PUPP supports cross-disciplinary research in medicine, behavioral health, social sciences, nursing, health policy, health sciences, health informatics or population health.

Research proposals are scored for relevance, innovation and applicability to advance delivery of evidence-based, high-quality, accessible and cost-effective care within Medicaid. Proposals are then ranked for funding. Additionally, the university provides 50% cost-match of the total research project expenses, which allows LDH to offer this program through federal financial participation.

Learnings from the research projects are intended to inform on policy to foster innovation and new approaches. Research teams provide study findings at scheduled intervals during the project timeline which are disseminated to interested parties and stakeholders within LDH, parish municipalities, community programs and legislative partners.

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For more information, contact PUPP@la.gov