Recurring Themes and Next Steps
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Recurring Themes

• Ideological challenges in framing the issues and American aversion to investing in social services (the ideal of self-sufficiency) – Financing is important

• Social and behavioral circumstances are intimately linked to health

• Chronic and behavioral health conditions are among today’s most pressing health problems
  – Heart Disease
  – Diabetes
  – Depression
  – Substance Use

• More social services expenditures produce better health outcomes in national and international studies (Bradley et al, *Health Affairs, 35*(5), 2016; Bradley et al, *BMJ Quality and Safety, March*, 2011)
Recurring Themes, continued

• Preliminary findings that social work services in coordinated care are associated with positive outcomes and cost savings (Steketee)
• There is much to learn about integrated health services models
  – What is the specific intervention? Much current research fails to define the IV
  – Inconclusive findings to date (Reves et al, 2013, Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews)
  – Today’s presentations indicated a variety of populations with different integrated care needs (diabetes, CVD, child mental health)
• Measuring the Impact of Interprofessional Practice on Patient Outcomes (http://www.nap.edu/21726)
Recurring Themes, continued

• Much innovation with social work in integrated care currently going on (Golden)
  – Needs to be captured
  – Part of the problem is lack of time for social workers to participate in scholarship
    • This is a particular structural problem in academic medical centers
    • Feeds a viscous cycle that undermines the social work role.

• The lowest paid worker who can fill the need will be hired (Bachman)
  – Social Work has both benefited and been harmed by this harsh reality.
Next Steps: NEEDED ACTION

• Specification of specific interprofessional models of care, including articulation of the social work role
  – Several speakers addressed options and variations in collaborative care models
• Careful, mixed methods studies and cost benefit studies of interprofessional practice and patient outcomes
• Social Work Education to improve competencies in:
  – use of the EMR and informatics,
  – Benefits, insurance, and financing expertise,
  – Health literacy for social workers,
  – leadership for social workers in health care teams.
  – Work with peers
  – A population focus
  – Working in Teams IPP
At the University of Michigan a consortium of Health Sciences Schools has committed to create a substantial agenda of IP Inquiry

Figure 1. Conceptual model of the Michigan Model for Inter-professional and Comprehensive Health (MiMICH)