



## 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)**