

RURAL **HEALTH** WORKSHOP

# Expanding Care Capacity Through ECHO Community of Practice



# Speakers

- Taunya Williams
  - Healthcare Innovation Manager
  - [Taunya.Williams@la.gov](mailto:Taunya.Williams@la.gov)



# Speakers

- Dragana Lovre, MD
  - Endocrinologist  
Hub Specialist,  
Tulane University



- Linda Matessino, RN,MPH
  - Grants Program  
Director, Arbor  
Family Health



- Elizabeth Newton Smith, CHC, MPAS, PA-C
  - Grant Coordinator  
& Health Coach  
Lead, Arbor Family



# Learning Objectives

- Provide an overview of the Project ECHO Model and Well-Ahead's Diabetes ECHO Program
- Outline the benefits of participating in the Diabetes ECHO for participating providers, clinics, and patients
- Explain the requirements of participating and how to apply for the Diabetes ECHO in 2022

# **What is Project ECHO?**

# Project ECHO

- Project ECHO® (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) is a movement to demonopolize knowledge and amplify the capacity to provide best practice care for underserved people all over the world
- Connects primary care providers and specialists on a live, virtual platform
- Creates a community of practice to share knowledge and increase capacity

# ECHO Principles

**A**

**Automation** - Use *Technology* to leverage scarce resources



**B**

Share **Best Practices** to reduce disparity



**C**

**Case Based Learning** to master complexity



**D**

Web-based **Database** to *Monitor Outcomes*



# **Why a Diabetes ECHO?**



# Why a Diabetes ECHO?

- Major health disparity for diabetes care in rural areas of Louisiana
- 13.9% of the adult population in Louisiana has diabetes
  - Compared to 10.5% nationwide
- 14.1% of Louisianans have diabetes compared to 10.6% nationally. (BRFSS 2020)
- A higher proportion of rural Louisiana residents have diabetes (18.9%) compared to Louisiana residents living in urban areas (13.8%). (BRFSS 2020)
- Diabetes ECHO helps expand capacity to support patients with diabetes in these communities

# Goals of Diabetes ECHO

# Goals

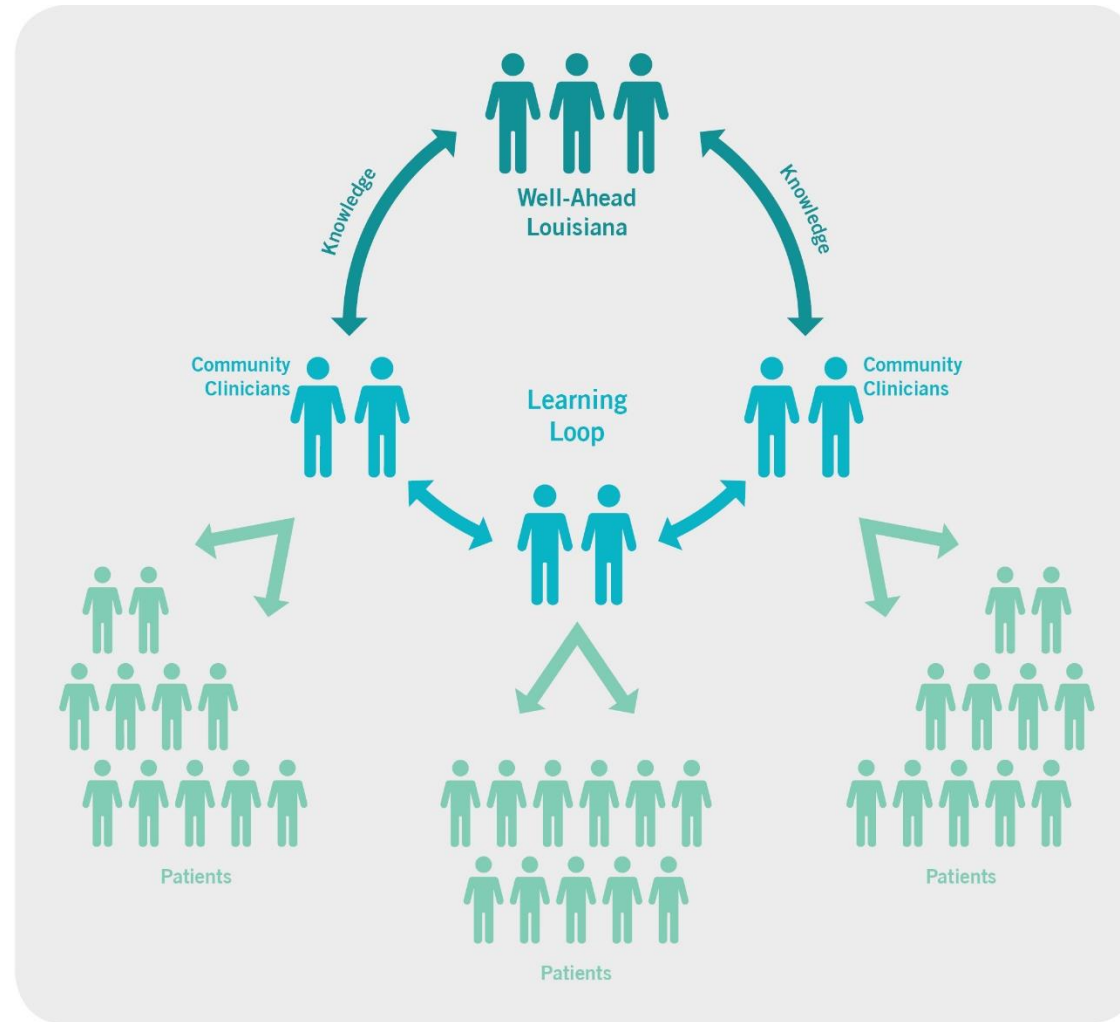
- Link specialists and community clinicians via videoconferencing technology to create a Community of Practice
- Expand provider capacity and self-efficacy through case-based learning
- Support clinicians to become experts in the care and management of diabetes
- Leverage scarce provider resources
- Share best practices to reduce disparities

# Diabetes ECHO Model

# Diabetes ECHO Model

- ECHO is a “hub and spoke” model
- Functions like virtual grand rounds using Zoom
- Structure of an ECHO Session:
  - Introductions
  - Case Presentation
  - Recommendations
  - Didactic Presentation

# ECHO Model



# **Benefits of Participation**

# Individual Participants

- Community of Practice
- Sharing of Best Practice
- FREE CEUs
- Diabetes Education
- Expansion of treatment capacity
- Enhanced skills and competencies
- Increased confidence



# Participating Clinics

- Increased provider satisfaction
- Increased provider productivity
- Increased provider motivation and resilience to practice in rural communities

# Patients of Participating Clinics

- Improved outcomes
- Improved quality and safety
- Improved condition-specific measures
- Decreased mortality
- Mitigated future interventions
- Reduced complications
- Ability to stay in local community and receive treatment

# Success Stories

# Success Stories

- Diabetes ECHO Facilitator & Endocrinologist: Dragana Lovre, MD
- 2021 Diabetes ECHO Participants: Linda Matessino, RN,MPH and Elizabeth Newton Smith, CHC, MPAS, PA-C

# **Eligibility and Application**

# Eligible Participants and Requirements

- All providers who treat patients with diabetes at Rural Health Clinics or Federally Qualified Health Centers in rural areas are encouraged to participate.
- Requirements:
  - Complete pre-survey and post-survey to measure efficacy
  - Attend at least 50% of sessions through the year
  - Present at least 1 patient case during the year
  - Complete post-session surveys for CEUs

# Apply today to join the 2022 Diabetes ECHO!

- Clinics interested in participating in the 2022 Diabetes ECHO for must complete the online application on this web page:
  - <https://wellaheadla.com/diabetes-echo>
- Important Dates:
  - December 23, 2021: Application deadline
  - December 31, 2021: Selected clinics will be notified
  - January 27, 2022: Diabetes ECHO launches

**Questions?**



# Contact Information

- Taunya Williams, Healthcare Innovation Manager, Well-Ahead Louisiana
  - [Taunya.Williams@la.gov](mailto:Taunya.Williams@la.gov)
- Dragana Lovre, MD, Endocrinologist Hub Specialist, Tulane University
  - [dlovre@tulane.edu](mailto:dlovre@tulane.edu)
- Linda Matessino, Grants Program Director, Arbor Family Health
  - [linda@arborfamilyhealth.org](mailto:linda@arborfamilyhealth.org)
- Elizabeth Newton Smith, CHC, MPAS, PA-C, Grant Coordinator & Health Coach Lead, Arbor Family Health
  - [ismith@arborfamilyhealth.org](mailto:ismith@arborfamilyhealth.org)

# Join the Provider Education Network!

- The Provider Education Network provides tools, training and technical assistance opportunities that help you provide the best possible care to your patients and help make every angle of your facility more effective.
- Join today at [www.wellaheadla.com/move-well-ahead/provider-education-network](http://www.wellaheadla.com/move-well-ahead/provider-education-network)

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**Thank you for joining us!**

