A HRSA-funded Model for Collaborative Team-based Senior Care

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Objectives

1. Describe an interprofessional, team-based, person-centered approach to providing care for older adults (funded by HRSA)

2. Discuss the roles of community-based partners in supporting the needs of older adults, their families, and their caregivers
The Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program aims to improve the quality of healthcare for older Americans by:

- Changing clinical training environments into integrated geriatrics and primary care delivery systems.
- Training providers who can assess and address the needs of older adults and their families or caregivers at the individual, community, and population levels.
- Delivering community-based programs that will provide patients, families, and caregivers with the knowledge and skills to improve health outcomes and the quality of care for older adults.
Training a Workforce in Interprofessional Geriatrics

• New geriatrics clinics at Keck USC Medicine and LAC+USC
  – Eight health professions
  – Focus on older adults with cognitive impairment or dementia in addition to physical frailty
• Interprofessional geriatrics education
  – IP teams work with older adults living in senior housing
  – Student-Senior Partnership program with USC alumni and retirees
• Partners
  – Alzheimer’s | Greater Los Angeles
  – Center for Healthcare Rights
  – USC Alzheimer Disease Research Center
Needs Addressed

• For primary care providers to recognize cognitive impairment in the older adult population
• For providers to be trained to deliver high-quality interprofessional geriatric primary care
• For consumers to be sufficiently educated so that they are able to access care in the current complex healthcare system
Take-home Message

- Geriatrics is a team sport
- Older adults benefit from a collection of clinicians who can address their complex needs
- Both students and clinicians need to be trained
- The goal is cost-effective improved functional outcomes for older adults