**SOCIAL IMPACT PRACTICUM PROJECT PROPOSAL**

**University of New Hampshire (UNH)-Center for START Services**

**THE SOCIAL IMPACT PRACTICUM (SIP)**

Analyze initial medical student training data regarding best practices for prescribers of patients with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) to inform future iterations.

**YOUR PROJECT PARTNER**

Your project partner is the National Center for START Services at the Institute on Disability (IOD)/UCED at University of New Hampshire (UNH). The IOD promotes full access, equal opportunities, and participation for people with disabilities by strengthening communities, advancing policy, systems change, education, and research. Within the IOD is the National Center for START Services (NCSS), an organization that promotes inclusive and person-centered best practices for children and adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Mental Health (IDD-MH). This includes START model implementation, along with best practice research and training.

* The website is: <https://centerforstartservices.org/> and <https://iod.unh.edu/projects/center-start-services>
* Your liaison is Andrea Caoili, Director of Quality Assurance and Research. Each project group’s representative can reach Andrea at [andrea.caoili@unh.edu](mailto:andrea.caoili@unh.edu).

**SOCIAL IMPACT PRACTICUM CONTEXT**

START is an evidence-based, cross-systems crisis prevention and intervention model for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) who have mental health needs. START uses many methods to address mental health in persons with IDD and employs quality improvement approaches including the START Information Reporting System (SIRS), a robust and secure data collection, reporting, and evaluation infrastructure. Numerous peer reviewed studies with data from SIRS show evidence of positive outcomes across diverse contexts, pointing to the generalizability of treatment effects and fidelity to the model.

As part of a strategic initiative to develop best practices for prescribers who work with patients with IDD and mental health concerns (IDD\_MH), NCSS/UNH has begun piloting training content with medical students (residents, fellows and second/third year medical students) at several large medical training programs. This includes a 6 hours of trainings based on the recently published Integrated Mental Health Treatment Guidelines for Prescribers in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (https://centerforstartservices.org/IDD-MH-Prescribing-Guidelines) as well as pre- and post-evaluation data.

The START program at UNH would like QSS 20 students to analyze this training evaluation data to assess strengths and growth points as well as recommending changes based on the data which could improve efficacy, retention, impact, or all of the above. (For example, the training videos which include the lived experience of individuals are already scoring higher so that is one already-identified place where small changes to the delivery medium of the content could improve results).

At present (Fall 2023), there are 200+ evaluations of 40+ medical students and this number is expected to grow to 300+ evaluations from 60+ distinct medical students by mid-October.

The final deliverable for this project could be in the form of a report, research brief with findings, data visualization, storytelling, or some combination therein that include identified themes from the data and proposed recommendations going forward.

*\*\*The primary contact for this project is Andrea Caoili, Director of Quality Assurance and Research, noted above.*

**ORGANIZATIONAL CONTEXT**

The START (Systemic, Therapeutic, Assessment, Resources, and Treatment) model at the University of New Hampshire is a comprehensive model of service supporting the optimization of independence, treatment, and community living for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD) and mental health needs.

START includes the following values in daily practice through decision-making, work contributions, and interpersonal interactions:

* Service: Recipients and their families are the most valued partners.
* Capacity building begins with positive engagement: Whether it is an individual or a large system. START emphasizes building upon abilities in each individual and in their system of support.
* Help begins with providing oxygen: Helping to resolve an immediate destabilizing situation allows for hope and change going forward.
* Networking: Increasing depth of knowledge and capacity to provide services for all.
* The three A’s of service effectiveness: Access, Appropriateness and Accountability.
* Tertiary crisis intervention approach to supporting vulnerable populations: Building capacity through primary interventions, including secondary interventions with expertise for specialized approaches, and including a safety net for emergency interventions are all part of the solution focused approach.
* Team effort: START works as a team to create opportunities. This includes mutual respect that allows for team input to help the program continue to improve and change over time.
* Community: Develop and maintain fellowship with others that share common attitudes, values, interests, and goals.
* Fidelity: Provide training and consultation to support the integrity of activities that make the START Model effective and directly impact the success of desired outcomes.
* Humanity: Conduct all activities with compassion, understanding, and kindness.

*Organizational information above courtesy of the organization's website.*