Plenary Session:
Panel Discussion – The Future of Health and Allied Health Care Training in the West

Monday, November 5, 2007
10.30-11.45 am
Mount Elbert
Panel Discussion on the Future of Health and Allied Health Care Training in the West

Moderated by Dennis Mohatt, panelists Steve Adelsheim, Sue Carparelli, and Linda Hyman will explore the direction health and allied health care training is taking and its implications for the changing health care needs of the West. Traditionally, health care professionals have been trained in silos, but later in their careers (and increasingly), they’re required to work in teams with other health care providers – a task for which they’re poorly prepared. In addition, in recent years, a wide range of new health professions have emerged: physicians assistant, nurse practitioner, health informatics specialist, imaging technician, and pharmacy technician are just some of the areas of practice that have evolved as new and critical fields of study – and there’s no reason to believe that the future will be any less dynamic than the past. This session will discuss these new and emerging innovations in health and allied health care training.

Biographical Information on the Discussion Leader

Dennis Mohatt is the director of the Mental Health Program at WICHE. Founded in 1955, the Mental Health Program is a collaborative venture with 15 Western states. The program’s mission is twofold: to assist the states in the improvement of systems of care for persons with mental illness and their families; and to advance the preparation of a qualified mental health workforce in the West. Mohatt served as deputy director for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services from 1996 to 1999. In that position, he was designated the state’s commissioner of mental health, as well as providing leadership in the areas of public assistance, rural health, primary care, disabilities, and child welfare. He also was responsible for the administration of Nebraska’s public managed care initiatives in Medicaid for both physical and behavioral health. He has over a decade of experience in community mental health; he provided executive leadership to a community mental health center in Michigan’s rural Upper Peninsula and successfully integrated community mental health services with primary care in two rural family medicine practices. Mohatt served on the National Rural Health Advisory Committee to the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services from 1994 to 1998. From 2002 to 2003, he served as consultant to the Rural Issues Subcommittee of the President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health and assisted the committee in preparing its report to the president.

Biographical Information on the Speakers

Steven Adelsheim is a child psychiatrist and professor of psychiatry, family/community medicine, and pediatrics at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, where he is the director of the Center for Rural and Community Behavioral Health in the Psychiatry...
Department. Adelsheim serves as a consultant to the New Mexico Behavioral Health Purchasing Collaborative and is the former school mental health officer for the New Mexico Department of Health. In 2006 Adelsheim received the Agnes Purcell McGavin Award for Prevention from the American Psychiatric Association; and in 2005 he received the Irving Phillips Award for Prevention of child and adolescent mental illness from the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry for his prevention work nationally and in New Mexico. Adelsheim is also the cochair of the Committee on Schools of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

Sue Carparelli is the president and CEO of the Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence. The center’s mission is to improve access to quality health care through the development and support of the Colorado nursing workforce. Using collaborative partnerships, the center serves as a central resource to enhance the recruitment, training, and retention of the nursing workforce. With broad experience in the management of public, private, and nonprofit organizations, Carparelli has a background in both workforce development and in health care. She was vice president and manager of workforce development for the Southeast Business Partnership (SEBP), a public/private partnership created to sustain and enhance the long-term vitality and quality of life of the southeast metro Denver area. Prior to joining the staff of SEBP, she was vice president of business and program development for Rose Medical Center in Denver.

Linda E. Hyman joined Montana State University in 2003 as vice provost for health sciences and the director of the Montana WWAMI medical education program (WWAMI is a partnership between the University of Washington School of Medicine and the states of Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho). She is responsible for directing the Montana State University Division of Health Sciences, which includes the Area Health Education Center, the Montana Office of Rural Health, the American Indian Research Opportunities Program, the Montana Medical Laboratory Sciences training program, and the Office of Health Professions Advising. In addition, she is the principal investigator and director of the Center for Community-based Research in Native Health. She also serves as an assistant dean at the University of Washington School of Medicine. She received her undergraduate training at the SUNY Albany and earned her Ph.D. in molecular biology from Brandeis University. She was a postdoctoral fellow at Tufts University School of Medicine prior to joining the faculty in the Department of Biochemistry at Tulane University School of Medicine in 1993. Hyman has also served as program director of genetics at the National Science Foundation and has participated in grant and program reviews for the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and other organizations. She maintains an active research program as a professor in the Department of Cell Biology and Neuroscience.