A program of the Texas Department of State Health Services

TexasAIM Obstetric Care for Women with Opioid and other Substance Use Disorder Innovation and Improvement Learning Collaborative Faculty



Jennifer R. Ustianov MS BSN RN

During the past 20 years, Ms. Ustianov has supported national, statewide, and regional projects focused on improving health outcomes for children, adults, families, and communities. Through these opportunities, Ms. Ustianov's role as a Project Director and Improvement Advisor has provided extensive knowledge in quality improvement methodologies, teamwork strategies, patient safety, and system redesign. In the spirit of true collaboration and action, she partners with patients, families, leaders, and frontline health professionals in clinical and community settings to guide transformational change. Schooled in the IHI Breakthrough College, Ms. Ustianov is a passionate Quality Improvement Advisor and coach who works closely with clients to adapt various methodologies to ensure optimal engagement and results.

As an AHRQ TeamSTEPPS Master Trainer, Ms. Ustianov has worked with hospital and practice-based teams in varied acute and ambulatory settings providing expertise in the field of Teamwork and Patient Safety. Passionately supporting efforts that narrow the health disparities and promote equity for all pregnant people, newborns and families, Ms. Ustianov is inspired by innovative ideas, current research, and action.



Sue Butts-Dion

Sue Butts-Dion is an improvement advisor for health care systems. She brings more than 25 years of experience supporting collaborative learning and improvement and has provided collaborative and consulting support around such topics as patient-centered medical homes, maternal and child health (prenatal care, breastmilk feeding, safe sleep), immunizations, healthy weight, ADHD, oral health, diabetes, hypertension, developmental screening, colorectal cancer screening, delirium, and improving the patient experience. Sue is President of Butts-Dion Consulting, Inc.



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Briseida (Bee) Courtois, MSSW, LCDC, CMA

Briseida Courtois is a licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor, Certified Medication Assisted Treatment Advocate, Trainer for CMAT with a Master of Science in Social Work who has over 30 years of experience working in various arenas including substance use treatment with a focus on Medication Assisted Treatment, prevention/intervention services, domestic violence, women's treatment services, child abuse services, co-morbidity, and HIV/AIDS. She currently serves as Director of Substance Use Treatment Care with UT Health Science Center San Antonio. She has worked for approximately 14 years with Local Mental Health Authority-The Center for Health Care Services as Director of Substance Use Treatment Services. This included administrative oversight, clinical, financial direction and coordination for supervisor staff. Development of Strategic partnerships with local service s providers.



Carey Eppes, MD, MPH

Dr. Carey Eppes is the Medical Director for TexasAIM. Dr. Eppes is a Maternal-Fetal Medicine physician at Baylor College of Medicine and the Maternal Fetal Medicine Division Director, and the co-director of the Ben Taub High Risk Obstetrics Infectious Disease Clinic. Her clinical and research focus is on infectious diseases during pregnancy, substance use disorder and obstetrical quality, safety and equity. Dr. Eppes also serves as the ACOG district XI patient safety and quality improvement chair, the TexasAIM Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy Learning Collaborative and Obstetric Hemorrhage Learning Collaborative Faculty Medical Director, Chair for the Texas Collaborative for Health Mothers and Babies, and member of the Texas Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Committee and Texas Medical Association Committee on Reproduction and Women's Health.



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Leah L. Habersham, MD, MBA, MSLIS, FACOG



Dr. Leah Habersham is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology & Reproductive Sciences at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. She is currently leading several projects centered on substance use disorders in pregnancy. She has led a systematic review on inequities in postpartum pain management, which has served as a foundation on knowledge for a retrospective chart review. Her research is focused on the improvement of care for minority and marginalized populations with substance use disorders. As a dual board-certified OBGYN and Addiction Specialist and as a clinical researcher, she has been instrumental in the formation of a new service line within the Department of OBGYN at the Icahn School of Medicine—coined The Bridge Program.

Michelle Hansford CHW, RSPS, PSS

Michelle Hansford is currently employed with Santa Maria Hostel as the Outreach and Care Coordinator Peer Support Supervisor for the Caring for Two Intervention & Prevention Program. She served for three years in a National Position as a Family Consultant with the Center for States Capacity Building Collaborative (child welfare). She was with One Voice Texas under the Hogg Foundation Peer Policy Fellow grant for 18 months. Michelle is perfectly positioned to provide advocacy trainings and support to two groups-children and parents-that are marginalized in the policy discussions surrounding the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. She has been a volunteer parent liaison with the Statewide Parent Collaboration Group of the Department of Family and Protective Services for over 10 years. Michelle is a birth parent who has successfully advocated for herself and her children, as well as for parents in other cases where substance use disorder, mental health, and trauma are involved.



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Jennifer R. McKinney, MD MPH

Dr. McKinney is an assistant professor of maternal fetal medicine at Baylor College of Medicine. It is her belief that optimal prenatal care for women with substance use disorders requires a comprehensive multidisciplinary medical team including obstetrics, addiction medicine psychiatry, anesthesiology, neonatology, outpatient and inpatient community treatment facilities, social services including family protective services, and criminal justice systems. She has been involved in the development of an improved multidisciplinary clinical care model for care of pregnant people with substance use disorders in her institution.



Sarah M. Wakefield, MD

Dr. Wakefield is a board-certified adult, child/adolescent, and forensic psychiatrist and additionally has training and expertise in reproductive psychiatry. She attended medical school at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas and a general psychiatry residency at Louisiana State University School of Medicine in Shreveport. Dr. Wakefield completed a fellowship in child and adolescent psychiatry and an additional fellowship in forensic psychiatry also at LSUHealth before joining the faculty at Texas Tech University School of Medicine in 2014. She is currently chair of the Department of Psychiatry at Texas Tech University School of Medicine and is active in providing psychiatric diagnostic evaluations and treatment planning for families, adolescents in the juvenile justice system, and for pregnant or postpartum mothers. Dr. Wakefield serves on the Executive Committee of the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium. She serves as the Medical Director for the Texas Perinatal Psychiatry Access Network, the Clinical Co-lead of the Youth Depression and Suicide Research Network, and the clinic consultant for the West Texas Mental Health Collaborative. Dr. Wakefield is dedicated to system improvement in mental health care delivery and to mental health care education.