



Engagement Awardee Lunch and Learn: Mental Health and COVID-19

August 9, 2021 | 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET

Presenters

Tiffany Haynes, PhD, RN, Project Lead

Tiffany Haynes is a clinical psychologist with expertise in mental health services research, intervention development, and community-based participatory research. Haynes completed a master's degree and doctorate in psychology at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She later completed a postdoctoral fellowship in advanced psychology at the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Haynes is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health. She also serves as the Co-Director of the Health Prevention and Health Promotion Doctoral Program and the Associate Director of the UAMS Translational Research Institute Community Engagement Core.

As a faculty member, Haynes has dedicated her career to improving access to and use of mental health services within underserved communities, with a specific emphasis on building partnerships with faith-based communities. Haynes received a KL2 Mentored Career Development Award to examine the relationship between religious beliefs and attitudes about mental health service. Findings from that study were used to develop a faith-based mental health intervention that is currently being tested through a cooperative agreement funded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

Haynes is also the co-founder of the Arkansas FAITH Network, a coalition of places of worship, healthcare organizations, and health researchers, that partner together to reduce health disparities.

In addition to her academic work on improving access to mental health services, Haynes is a renowned mental health speaker and has provided mental health education talks at national conferences, corporate events, and within local congregations. She gave a TEDx Talk in 2020 entitled, "It's Ok to Not be Ok."



Kelly Irwin, MD, MPH, Project Lead

Kelly Irwin is a health services researcher and psychiatrist at the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Cancer Center and Schizophrenia Program and an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. She investigates healthcare disparities in patients with serious mental illness and cancer.

Irwin is the founding director of the Collaborative Care and Community Engagement Program at the MGH Cancer Center, a clinical and research initiative dedicated to achieving equity in cancer care for people with serious mental illness. Irwin's clinical research program focuses on developing, rigorously testing, and scaling interventions to improve cancer outcomes for people with mental illness and their caregivers. Her research has been funded by the American Cancer Society, the National Cancer Institute, the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, and multiple foundations.

Her team developed and successfully piloted Bridge, a person-centered collaborative care model for patients with serious mental illness that integrates mental health care into cancer care delivery. The Bridge trial enrolled rapidly with high rates of consent and trial completion. Irwin and her team are currently conducting the first randomized trial targeting patients with serious mental illness at cancer diagnosis, which investigates the impact of the Bridge model on cancer care.

With the support of the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, Irwin founded the Engage Initiative (the Cancer and Mental Health Collaborative), which aims to build capacity for person-centered research at the intersection of cancer and mental illness. Irwin believes health care is a human right, that separate is never equal, and that we can think creatively together to find solutions that advance health equity.