Partnership in Education, Advocacy, & Research in the Low Country of South Carolina
(Fetter/MUSC PEARLS Initiative)
Shared Goals and Mission

FHCN
Evidence-Based, Patient Centered Care
Improved Community Health
Decreasing Health Disparities

MUSC

Fetter/MUSC PEARLS Initiative
Mission
To develop a sustainable model to improve health outcomes and the quality of life for underserved patient populations by examining the most effective research and education approaches in deploying evidence-based care interventions
Fetter Health Care Network: Background

- Founded in 1967 as an MUSC demonstration project by College of Medicine Dean - Franklin C. Fetter, MD

- Designated as an independent Federally Qualified Health Center in 1974

- Today FHCN provides affordable primary care services to 20,000 adults and children located in eight locations throughout Berkeley, Dorchester, Charleston, and Colleton Counties

- Governed by a Board of Directors representing the community – patients, civic leaders, and health care providers
Since 1974, FHCN / MUSC supported collaboration on numerous education, research, and prevention initiatives (project by project)

New FHCN leadership engaged key MUSC leaders (Lanier, Bryant, Slaughter) to formalize an infrastructure to improve the ability to conduct interventions

Formal MOU signed 7/1/14 for 2 years with the option for renewal

Supported equally by Fetter & MUSC (Office of the Associate Provost for Research, Office of Research Development and SEView)
Fetter/MUSC PEARLS Initiative

Short Term Goals
To facilitate the implementation and completion of primary care delivery research and/or education initiatives within FHCN
  Target: coordinate 3-5 projects a year

To support the development of new joint projects and/or grant applications in support of this initiative
  Target: 3-5 new submissions a year

Long Term Goal
To extend PEARLS beyond FHCN to include other Federally Qualified Health Centers in the Low County with the support of the SC Primary Care Association (the unifying organization for Community Health Centers in SC)
Fetter/MUSC PEARLS Advisory Board

Reuben Pettiford, MPA (ED, FHCN)      Sabra Slaughter, PhD (MUSC)
David Garr, MD (MUSC)                     Vicki Young, PhD (SC Primary Care Association)

Fetter/MUSC PEARLS Project Review Committee

Cathy Melvin, PhD (MUSC)        Anthony Poole, PA (FHCN)        Deborah Williamson, DHA (MUSC)
Kwame Iwegbue, MD (FHCN)        James Sterrett, PharmD (MUSC)       Cathy Spruce, (COO, FHCN)

Fetter/MUSC PEARLS Support Infrastructure

Debbie Bryant, DNP (.3 FTE - Director)
Anita Harrison, MPA (.2 FTE - Grant Developer/Writer)
Tiffani Simmons (1FTE - Study Coordinator/ facilitator; FHCN)
PEARLS Policies

- MUSC research and education projects requesting access to FHCN community must be reviewed and approved by PEARLS’ PRC and demonstrate that it is:
  - meeting a priority need of FHCN
  - feasible to be conducted within the FHCN community

- Investigators must submit project request to PRC submission process

- Projects should include appropriate direct support for PEARLS study coordinator

- Projects must include appropriate direct and indirect cost of subcontract

- Projects submitted for extramural funding that requires a letters of support should be reviewed by PRC prior to submission
Expedited Review Process

- In the event of short submission timelines – the director will initiate a expedited review that allows two PRC members (one member at MUSC and one at FHCN) to approve release of letter of support by FHCN.

- The expedited project will receive full PRC review prior to project implementation.
PRC Action

- Approved
- Continent Approval (feasibility analysis, budget refinement etc.)
- Deferred (likely requiring a more detailed scope of project)
- Disapproved (PI will be encourage to discuss scope of design with PRC to strengthen proposal)
Questions