Prime Contractor: Westat, Inc.

PI/Project Lead and Project Director:
- Abram Rosenblatt, Ph.D. and Garrett Moran, Ph.D. (Co-Principal Investigators)
- Joshua Noda, M.P.P. (Project Director)

Key Personnel and Subcontractors:
- Rebecca Noftsinger (NIAC Lead)
- Monique Thornton, M.P.H. (Ongoing Portal Maintenance; Portal and Product Enhancements)

Project Period: September 30, 2019- September 29, 2024

Total Cost: $2,499,525.00

AHRQ COR: Parivash Nourjah

Project Purpose, Goals and Objectives: The goal of this project is to provide continued support for the existing AHRQ Academy for Integrating Behavioral Health and Primary Care (the Academy), a web-based national resource and coordinating center for people committed to delivering comprehensive, integrated behavioral healthcare and primary care, including, but not limited to substance use disorder (SUD), such as opioid use disorder (OUD).

Specific objectives include:
- convening an expert panel to provide input and guidance on the work of the Academy;
- maintaining the web platform that supports the Academy;
- updating guidance, tools, resources available through the Academy Portal (e.g., online community (“Commons”); playbooks, literature collection;), and;
- development of new tools or resources as needed.

Background and Significance: Since the Institute of Medicine’s reports in 2001 and 2005 and the President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health report in 2003, it has been apparent that America’s health care delivery systems need to undergo fundamental changes to increase access to integrated, coordinated care and to recognize the importance of a whole-person approach to addressing an individual’s health needs.

In September 2010, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) created the Academy for Integrating Behavioral Health and Primary Care (The Academy) to function as both a coordinating center and a national resource for people committed to delivering
comprehensive, integrated behavioral healthcare in primary care settings. The purpose of
the Academy is to analyze, synthesize, and issue actionable information for a variety of
audiences, including providers, policymakers, investigators, and consumers. These users
need readily available information and tools to increase the use of best practices in
integrating behavioral health and primary care, and to increase the number of providers
capable of doing so, with the ultimate goal of increasing patient access to behavioral health
services.

A new need that has arisen since the Academy was first launched is the dissemination of
effective strategies such as medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for addressing the needs
of the increasing number of people battling OUD and other substance use disorders. This
will be a particular focus of the updates that will be provided in this iteration of the
Academy.

**Target Audience/s:** The primary target audiences in this phase are the providers, primary
care practices, health systems, and AHRQ-funded grantees who are working to integrate
behavioral health and primary care, as well as patients, policymakers, and other
stakeholders.

**Methods and Key Tasks:**

- **Expert Panel.** The work of this project will be guided by the insight of the expert
  panel, the National Integration Academy Council (NIAC), as well as the evolving
  needs of AHRQ.
- **Ongoing Maintenance of the Academy Portal.** The existing platform of *the Academy*
  will be leveraged to support continued coordination and dissemination activities.
  The Commons – the on-line community for peer-to-peer knowledge exchange -- will
  be maintained, as will the Literature Collection.
- **Portal and Product Enhancements.** The team will continue to update, enhance, and
  add to the large volume of Academy products and resources. A particular focus of
  new or enhanced products and resources will be emerging evidence on effective
  strategies for addressing SUD in primary care and other ambulatory care settings.
  For example, the MAT Tools & Resources Collection (a searchable database of tools
  and resources available to help those who offer or use MAT services) will be
  updated. In addition, there will be ongoing efforts to identify and assess any newly
  emerging needs of the target audiences, and to consider new or enhanced products
  to address these needs.

**Deliverables:**

- NIAC Meetings
- Academy Portal Maintenance
- Academy Portal and Product Enhancements