

Community Paramedics:

An Opportunity to Support Patients After Clinic
Visits



Abigail Ahyong, MD (PGY-2), she/her
Swedish Cherry Hill Family Medicine Residency
Port Angeles Rural Training Program



No Disclosures



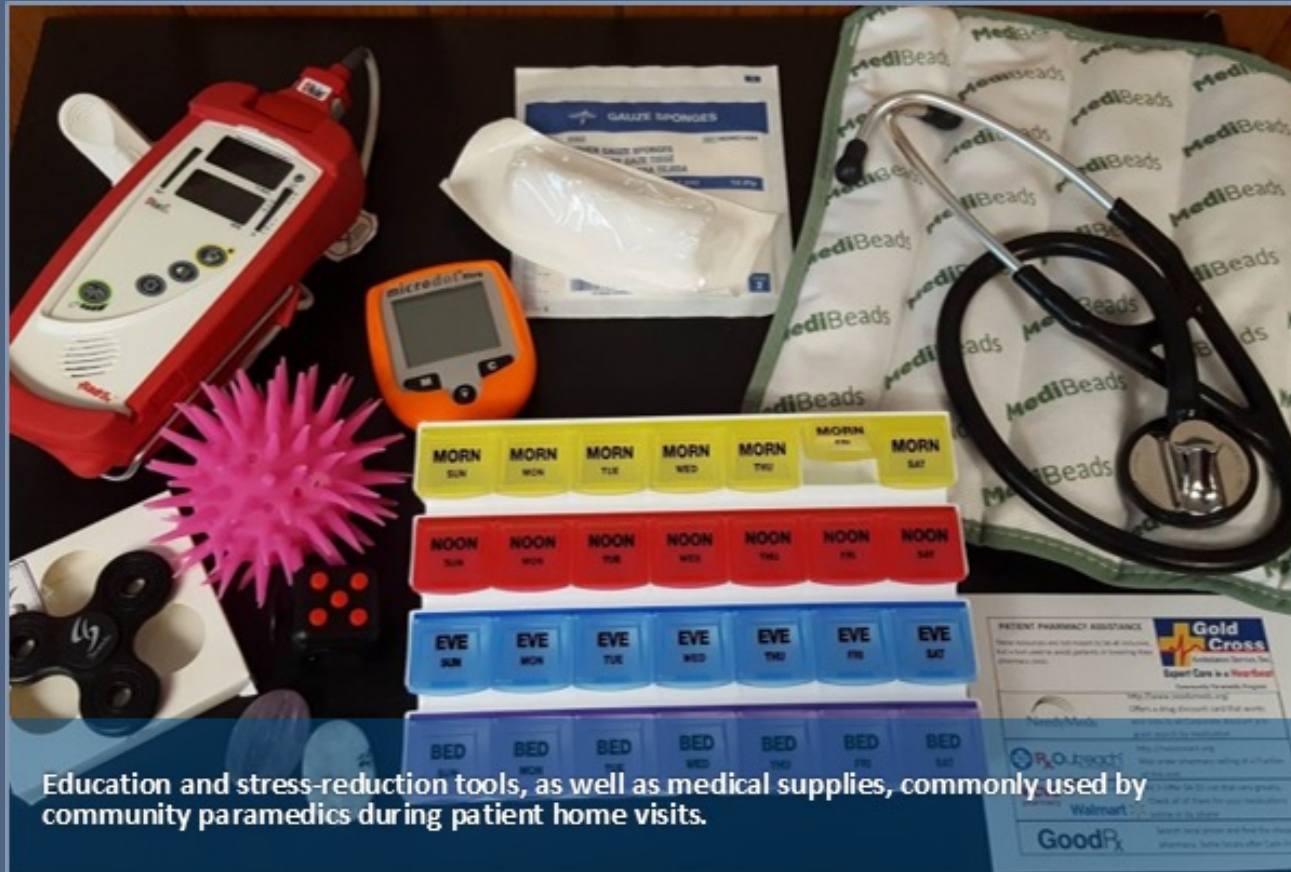
Land Recognition

I acknowledge that we are on the stolen lands and aboriginal territories of the Salish, Kootenai, and Kalispel people.

This area was also frequented by other tribes including the Niitsitapi (Blackfeet), Newe (Shoshone), Apsáalooke (Crow), and Ka'l gwu (Kiowa).

I honor the original stewards of this land and their descendants, many of whom continue to live, work, teach, create and learn in this community. I am committed to showing gratitude for the land and its Indigenous peoples by respecting and remembering this in our thoughts and actions.

Objectives



Education and stress-reduction tools, as well as medical supplies, commonly used by community paramedics during patient home visits.

- Concept of Community Paramedics
- Community Paramedic Services
- Community Benefits
- Medical Education
- Implementation & Community Organizing

Community Paramedicine

2 Principal Models:

Primary healthcare model

“Focuses on providing services to help prevent hospital readmissions, including post-discharge care, monitoring chronic illness, and targeting specific high-risk patients.”

Community coordination model

“Connect patients to a primary care physician and other social and medical services.”

Community Connections

- Providing and connecting patients to primary care services
- Completing post-hospital follow-up care
- Integrating with local public health agencies, home health agencies, health systems, and other providers
- Providing education and health promotion programs
- Providing services not available elsewhere in the community





Services

- Blood Draws
- Medication Administration & Reconciliation
- Blood Pressure Monitoring
- Chronic Disease Management
- Immunizations
- Oxygen Saturation Checks
- Weight Monitoring (CHF)
- Wound Care
- Referrals
- Resource Management

What training benefits can paramedics and residents gain from community paramedics programs?

Community Paramedics & Resident Training

- Understanding health and social needs of community members, especially vulnerable populations
- Follow-up patient care, condition & coordination
- Point-of-care procedural training
- Medication and health education



Additional Educational Opportunities

- Assess urgent community needs
- Create ideas for community medicine educational projects
- Organizational planning
- Alternative forms for home visits
- Learning about other community resources and programs available to patients

Implementing Community Paramedics

Organizing Cycle

Relational
Meetings &
Listening/



Reflection



community health needs assessment _____



Evaluation



Action

Clallam County



2019

Community Needs Assessment

2022

Areas of Opportunity Identified Through This Assessment

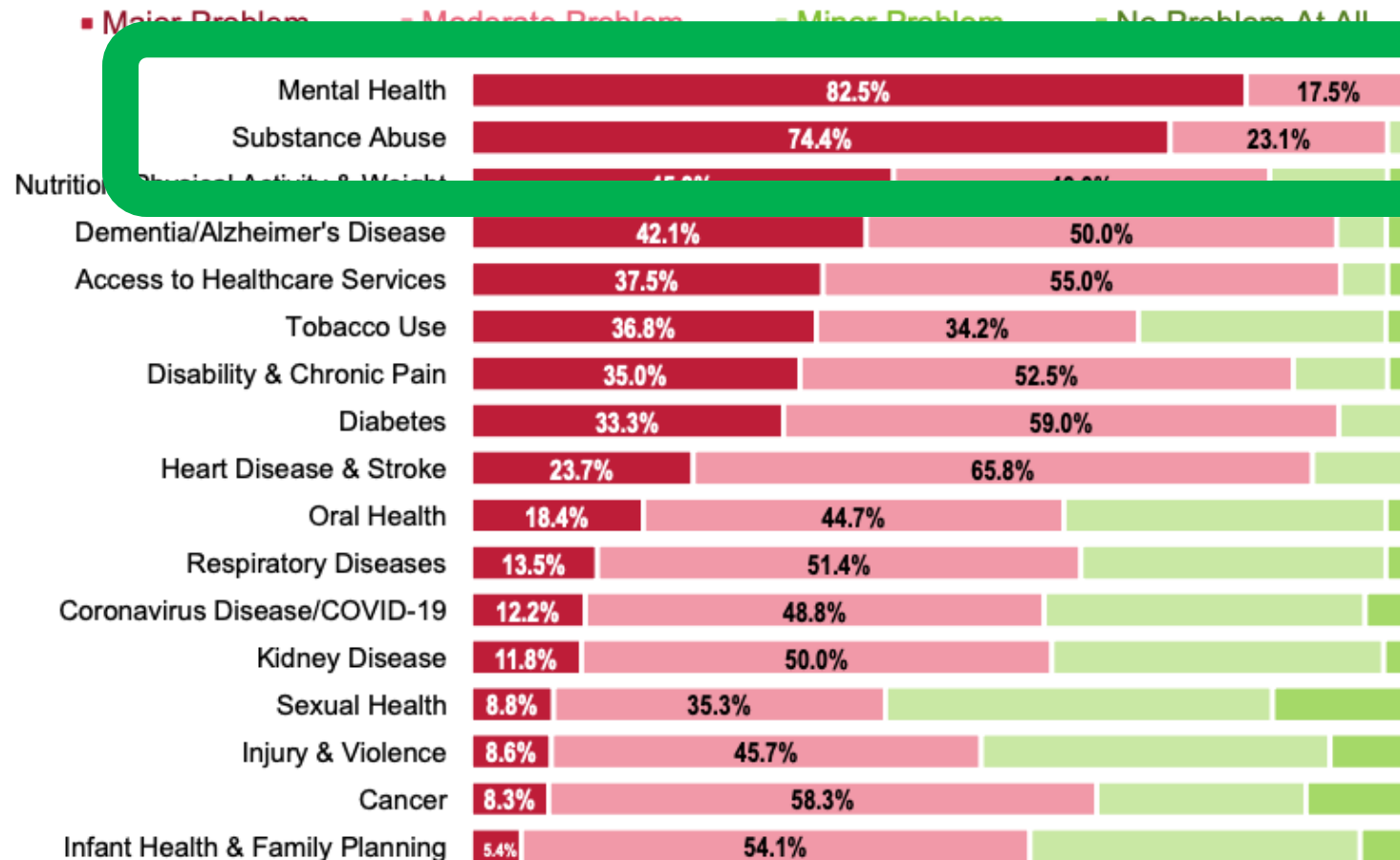
Access to Healthcare Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of Health Insurance (Adults & Children)
Diabetes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diabetes Prevalence • <i>Key Informants: Diabetes ranked as a top concern.</i>
Heart Disease & Stroke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leading Cause of Death
Infant Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infant Deaths
Injury & Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unintentional Injury Deaths • Motor Vehicle Crash Deaths
Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suicide Deaths • Mental Health Provider Ratio • <i>Key Informants: Mental health ranked as a top concern.</i>
Nutrition, Physical Activity & Weight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Food Access • <i>Key Informants: Nutrition, physical activity, and weight ranked as a top concern.</i>
Oral Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor Dental Health
Potentially Disabling Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability Prevalence • <i>Key Informants: Dementias/Alzheimer's disease ranked as a top concern.</i>
Substance Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Key Informants: Substance abuse ranked as a top concern.</i>
Tobacco Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cigarette Smoking Prevalence

AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY IDENTIFIED THROUGH THIS ASSESSMENT

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE SERVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Barriers to Access (esp. Other Clallam County) ▪ Inconvenient Office Hours (esp. Greater Port Angeles) ▪ Routine Medical Care (Adults) ▪ Emergency Room Utilization (esp. Other Clallam County) ▪ Ratings of Local Health Care
CANCER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leading Cause of Death (All Cancers) ▪ Lung Cancer Deaths
DIABETES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diabetes Prevalence
HEART DISEASE & STROKE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leading Cause of Death ▪ Heart Disease Prevalence ▪ High Blood Pressure (esp. Greater Sequim)
INFANT HEALTH & FAMILY PLANNING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Infant Deaths ▪ Teen Births
INJURY & VIOLENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unintentional Injury Deaths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Including Motor Vehicle Crashes
MENTAL HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Suicide Deaths ▪ Diagnosed Depression (esp. Greater Port Angeles) ▪ <i>Key Informants: Mental health ranked as a top concern.</i>
NUTRITION, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & WEIGHT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Low Food Access ▪ Access to Recreation/Fitness Facilities ▪ <i>Key Informants: Nutrition, physical activity, and weight ranked as a top concern.</i>
POTENTIALLY DISABLING CONDITIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disability Prevalence
SUBSTANCE ABUSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Key Informants: Substance abuse ranked as a top concern.</i>

Community Needs Assessment

Key Informants: Relative Position of Health Topics as Problems in the Community



Organizing Cycle



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Evaluation

- Did the program reduce medication errors or adverse drug events?
- Did the program reduce home safety hazards, like fall risks?
- Did the program connect patients with a primary care provider/medical home?
- Did the program effectively teach patients how to manage their chronic health conditions?
- Did the program connect patients with other beneficial local services (Meals on Wheels, physical therapy, and others)?

Port Angeles Fire Department Community Paramedicine Evaluation

Initial Goal: to provide services to at least 150 people each year

2021

402 people

- Needle Exchange Program
- Harm Reduction Program

2022

748 people

- Mental Health Resources
- First Aid & CPR Classes
- BP Monitoring Program

86% increase in 1 year!

“We recognize that a disconnected and siloed health care system is not serving individuals or the community well.”

Recognizing that 80% of what impacts a person's health occurs outside of the health care system...[we need] to provide whole person care by connecting patients with housing, food, transportation, employment, and other support services in addition to ensuring their health care needs are met in a timely manner.

The goal is to provide provide the right care at the right time and the right place”.

Appreciation



Kristin Fox

Port Angeles Fire
Department
Community Paramedics



Brian Gerdes



Effective Examples of Community Paramedics Programs:

<https://www.ruralhealthinfo.org/project-examples/topics/community-paramedics>

Organizations to Donate to:



<https://mtcf.org/giving/our-funds/snowbird-fund>



<https://www.facebook.com/MTNDNFood>



<https://circle-ed.org/donate>

Sources

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Thank you