

New Curriculum to Advance Nurse Education in Addictions

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Background

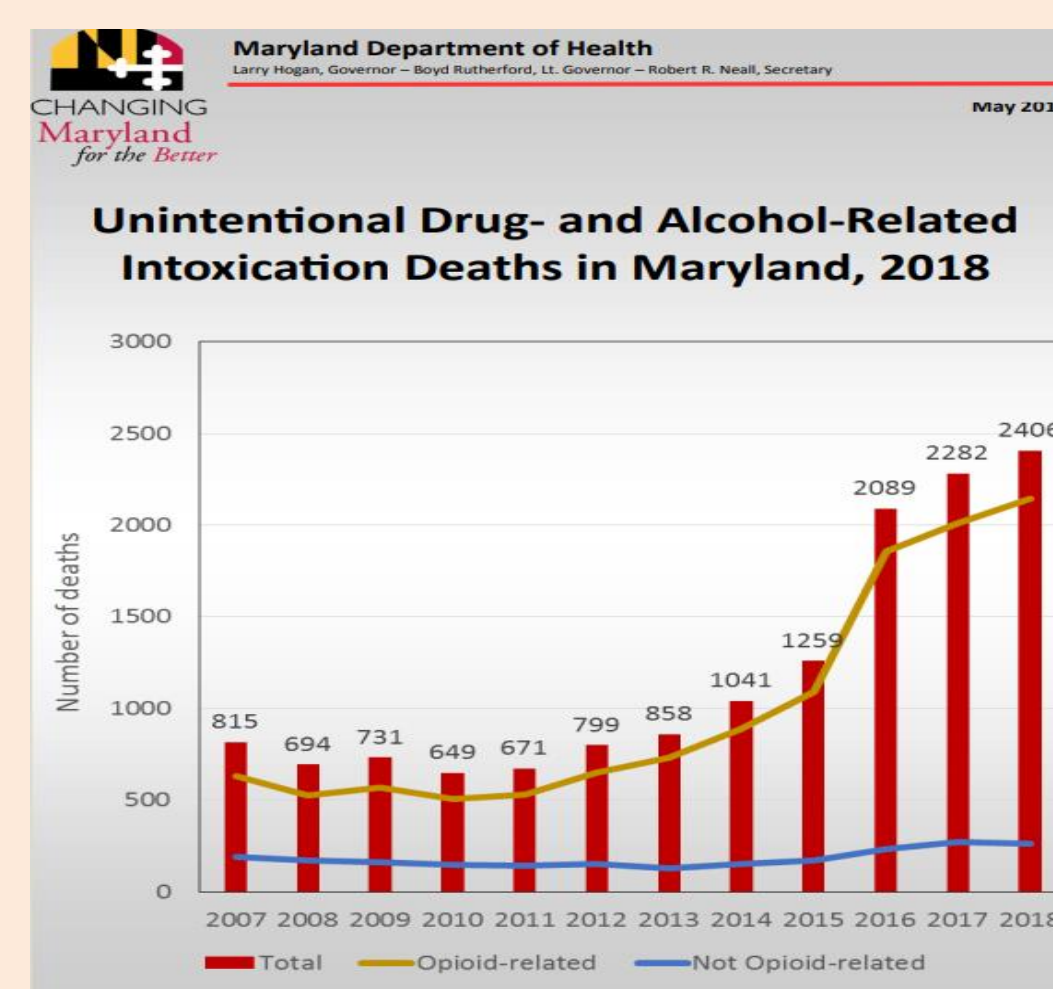
US:

- 20 million people with substance use disorders (SUDs) ¹
- Morbidity and mortality among consequences
- Opioid epidemic worsened during pandemic
 - **Worst year ever drug overdose deaths: 81,000** as of May, 2020 ²

Maryland:

- Top 4 in the nation for overdose deaths, 2019 ³

- Increasing unintentional opioid deaths, steady alcohol-related deaths ⁴



- Rate of opioid **ED visits in MD** outpacing the **US** average for a decade ⁵

Gaps in education:

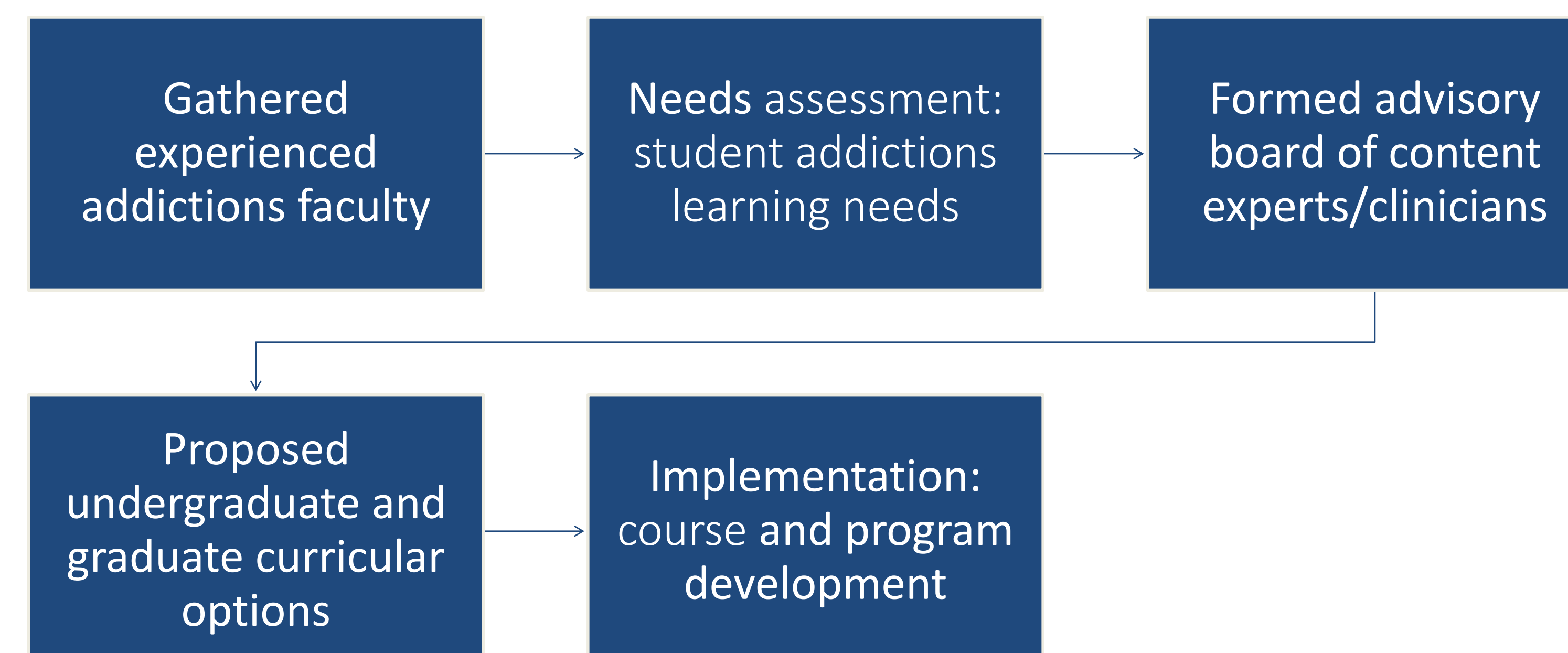
- Lack of knowledge is a major barrier to providing quality care to persons with SUDs ^{6, 7}
- Few schools educate nurses to identify, prevent, and treat SUDs ^{8, 9}

Objectives

Describe...

- Urgent need for innovative approaches to address the opioid epidemic, other substance use and disorders
- Process of advancing addictions nursing curriculum
- New addictions nursing curriculum for different educational levels that address unmet care needs

Methods



Conclusions

This addictions nursing curriculum...

- Prepares nurses to provide care across settings for individuals, families, and communities affected by substance use and addictions
- Prepares addictions nursing specialists
- Strengthens the nursing workforce

Future directions:

- Complete course development and rollout
- Evaluate courses and programs
- Continuous quality improvement

Results

Student addictions learning needs survey:

- Important to be educated about addictions (96%)
- Want an addictions nurse specialist in practice setting (96%)
- Interested in an addictions course (80%), focus area (71% BSNs, 94% RN-BSNs), certificate program (61%)
- Student-identified learning needs:

Addictions Resources
Dealing with intoxication and withdrawal
Effects of "street" drugs
Prevention, identifying risk factor
Communication about addictions
Encouraging patients
Supporting treatment and recovery

Undergraduate RN-BSN Focus Area:

- Assembled and adapted existing courses:
 - 1) Addictions foundations
 - 2) Motivational interviewing
 - 3) Public/community health nursing
- Earns transcript badge: "addictions nursing focus area"
- 15 students interested

Post-Baccalaureate Certificate: 4 new courses:

- 1) Addictions Nursing I: Foundations
 - Fall 2020 first time offered; 5 students enrolled
 - Course evaluations 4.9/5.0: objectives, content, teaching strategies
 - Student feedback: *fantastic course*
 - Spring 2021, 10 students enrolled
- 2) Motivational Interviewing
 - Spring, 2021 first time offered; 15 students enrolled
 - Student feedback: *confident encouraging clients and connecting with patients practice sessions helped develop MI skills benefits all nurses, not just specializing in addictions*
- 3) Addictions Nursing II: Special Topics, Fall 2021
- 4) Addictions Nursing III: Clinical Aspects (didactic + 90 hours clinical), Spring 2022

Bibliography

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⁸ Savage, C., Dyehouse, J., & Marcus, M. (2014). Alcohol and health content in nursing Baccalaureate degree curricula. Journal of Addictions Nursing, 25 (1), 28-34.
⁹ US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of the Surgeon General (2016). Facing addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health. Washington, DC: HHS, November 2016.