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**Abstract Category:** DNP in Clinical Leadership

**Title:** DNP's Leading the Change to Integrate Behavioral Health Services into Primary Care Settings

**Purpose:** Over 50% of all behavioral health services in the U.S. are currently provided in primary care settings, but primary care providers feel inadequately prepared to offer them. As 32 million more patients become eligible for primary care in 2014 under the Affordable Care Act, the need to better integrate behavioral health services into primary care settings has never been greater.

**Objective 1:** Provide at least 3 advantages for setting up a consultation model over other formats for the integration of primary care and behavioral health services.

**Objective 2:** Describe how a DNP would combine both NP and CNS roles to make this provider ideally suited to provide primary care behavioral health consultation services.

**Objective 3:** Identify the steps necessary to successfully initiate or integrate primary care behavioral health consultation services in a clinical setting.

**Abstract:**

The need to integrate behavioral services into primary care settings has never been greater. Services for medical problems and for behavioral health problems have traditionally operated on separate tracks; causing illnesses to be mistreated or missed entirely. Ever since Surgeon General David Satcher’s groundbreaking meeting in December, 2000, programs around the country have looked closely at how they might make this work in their settings. The various models of integration that have been attempted provide important lesions deserving the close attention of their successors; in particular, the Primary Care Behavioral Health Consultation (PCBH) Model.

The PCBH Model requires providers familiar with med management, psychotherapy, health behavior change, quality improvement, staff development, consultation and education; in short, a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP). The combined CNS/NP roles and preparation of the PMHNP offer singular advantages compared to other providers for this type of service.

This presentation examines how PCBH Consultation Services would be provided by the PMHNP, including assessing the readiness of a practice site, determining the specific services to be offered, and conducting the formative and summative evaluations needed. We will also examine how a PMHNP, prepared at the DNP level, could potentially qualify as a new specialty, according to APRN Consensus Model definitions.