



Project FUTRE: Families Uplifted Through Recovery Education

Applicant Organization:

The University of Arizona

Project Director:

Todd Vanderah, PhD, Department Head, Pharmacology, College of Medicine, Director of the Comprehensive Pain and Addiction Center (CPAC)

Co-investigators:

Allison Huff Mac Pherson, DHEd, Benjamin Brady, DrPH, and Jennifer Schultz De La Rosa, PhD



Goal: The goal of Project FUTRE is to increase the number of behavioral health paraprofessionals who are trained to work with children and families impacted by opioid use disorder and other substance use disorders (OUD/SUD).

Summary: Over a four-year period, Project FUTRE aims to enroll 100 and graduate 90 behavioral health paraprofessionals. Graduates will join the behavioral health workforce with a minimum of 45 receiving additional training as AZ Department of Economic Security approved Family Support Specialist apprentices. UArizona will partner with provider organizations to setup experiential learning and apprenticeship sites in Santa Cruz and Pima county, two medically-underserved areas hard hit by the opioid epidemic. Led by Todd Vanderah, PhD, and Co-investigators Allison Huff Mac Pherson, DHEd, Benjamin Brady, DrPH, and Jennifer Schultz De La Rosa, PhD, the project is an interdisciplinary initiative between the Colleges of Public Health and Medicine, CPAC, the Center for Rural Health, and the Department of Family and Community Medicine's Workforce Development Program at the University of Arizona.

Project Objectives:

Objective 1: Implement a pre-service (Level I) educational program to train paraprofessionals to serve families impacted by OUD/SUD.

Objective 2: Develop an in-service training registered apprenticeship program that places paraprofessional trainees in OUD/SUD-related behavioral health positions.

Objective 3: Provide financial support to trainees via tuition/fees, supplies, and stipend support.

Objective 4: Increase training positions by a minimum of 10 percent in year one and maintain that level each year.