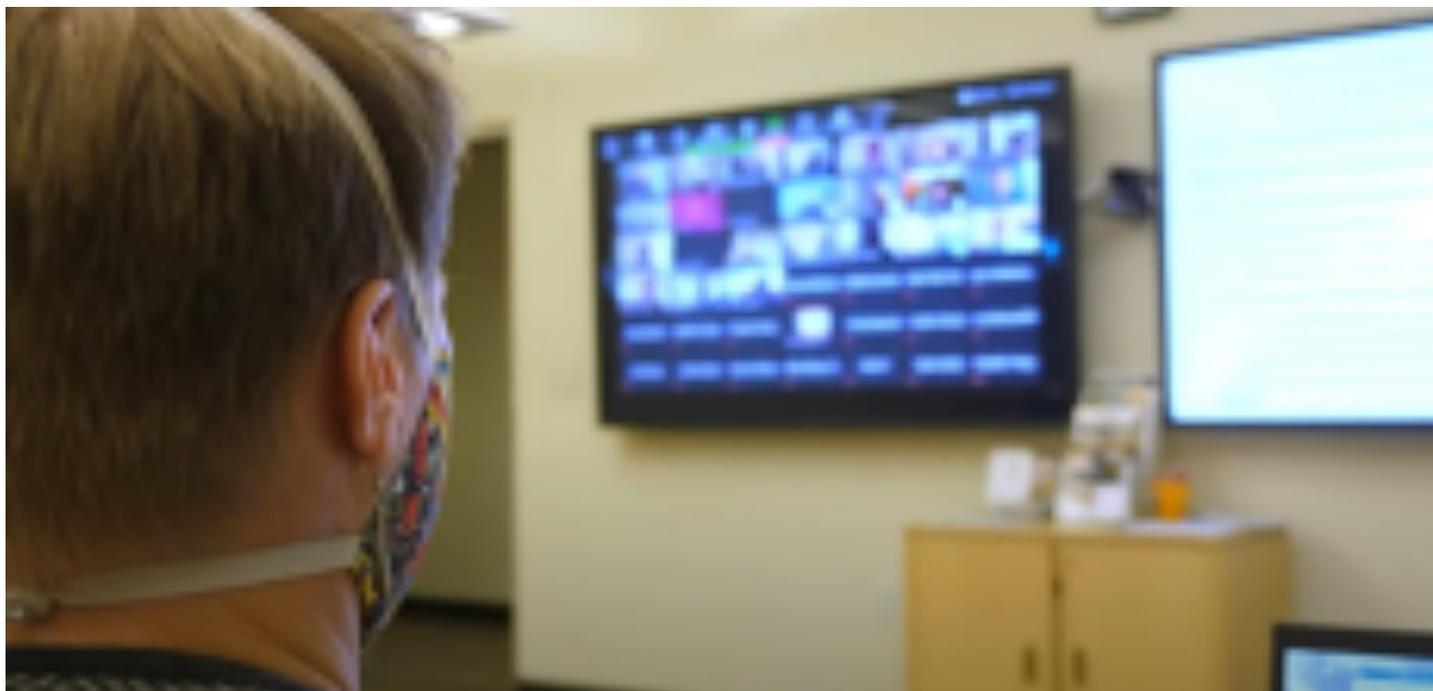


AUGUST 2020

ECHO IDAHO NEWSLETTER



University of Idaho
WWAMI Medical Education



Welcome to the first edition of the ECHO Idaho Newsletter

One of my priorities is to increase connection among our ECHO community across the state — from Coeur d'Alene to Challis to Caldwell. In this newsletter, you will find the latest news from ECHO and get a glimpse of what we have planned this fall.

ECHO Idaho has a large impact on the Gem State; sometimes we don't shout loudly enough about it. Over 1,050 unique individuals have attended our [COVID-19 Series](#) — that's **48.7% more people** than we've seen in our other programs combined! Though we were well-positioned to quickly design a virtual coronavirus program to support Idaho's health care workers, we haven't turned our backs on additional ECHO programming.

[The Syphilis in Pregnancy](#) program is a 3-part mini-series that will help providers learn best practices and discover resources for responding to the rise of syphilis rates during pregnancy in Idaho. And our free [Medication for Addiction Treatment waiver training](#) is coming up September 22.

This summer, ECHO Idaho's Perinatal Substance Use Disorder program came to a close. We're proud of the network we helped strengthen (151 unique participants in 21 Idaho counties) and encourage you to [use our website as a resource](#) for this topic.

Let me share some of our favorite quotes from P-SUD participants:

- *Well organized and authoritative, spoken with both knowledge and compassion.*
- *I greatly appreciate the group's ability to lower external stigma for these families.*
- *I think that every ECHO session 1) makes me more aware of the web of providers and professionals involved and available in our community and 2) increases my knowledge outside of my practice in NICU and potentially will improve my FNP practice in the future.*

This is the feedback we strive for - increased professional knowledge results in more confidence and improved patient care. Help us get the word out. Share this newsletter, encourage your colleagues to attend, let us know what is working (or not) for you. As part of ECHO Idaho, your voice matters.



Best,

Lachelle Smith
Director, ECHO Idaho

Free MAT Waiver Training

12:30 – 5 p.m. MST, September 22, 2020

In conjunction with Providers Clinical Support System (PCSS), ECHO Idaho will host a virtual Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT) waiver training for providers that want to prescribe and dispense buprenorphine.

Physicians, NPs and PAs with MAT waivers are vital in Idaho. Medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder is effective in preventing overdoses, significantly decreases the risk of relapse and has been shown to reduce the spread of infectious diseases like HIV.

People receiving MAT can and do achieve recovery. Be a part of their story!

[More details and registration on our website](#)



Project ECHO COVID-19 Program Delivers

The University of Idaho's Creative Services team produced this video about our COVID-19 program. Check it out to learn how this series has impacted Idaho by delivering critical coronavirus information to the state's health care workforce, educators and policymakers.

[Watch the video](#)





Vandal Community Relief Campaign

Thanks to those of you who helped support Project ECHO during the University of Idaho's [Vandal Community Relief campaign](#). Together, we raised funds to help secure continued delivery of the COVID-19 series. Though supported by [Idaho WWAMI](#), Project ECHO relies on grants and fundraising to produce relevant, high-quality programming at no cost to participants.

[Give today](#)

ECHO Idaho Gains Research Capacity

Madeline Casanova, a Postdoctoral Fellow with [Idaho WWAMI](#) is supporting ECHO Idaho with grant applications, research initiatives and program evaluation.



Madeline successfully defended her dissertation — “Psychometric Assessment of Psychosocial Health Constructs: Measuring Psychological Pain and Disablement” — this summer at U of I. Prior to that, she earned her Master’s from Idaho State University and her Bachelor’s from the University of Notre Dame, where she was captain of the track and field team

and competed in throwing events. ECHO Idaho is already benefiting from Madeline’s approach to data analytics, and we’re excited to see the results and impact of our work highlighted in future journal articles.

[Learn more about ECHO staff](#)

Current Series at ECHO Idaho

Earn free CE/CME by attending ECHO Idaho live over Zoom.

Syphilis in Pregnancy:

This three-part mini-series meets from noon to 1 p.m. MST on the following Wednesdays: August 12, August 26, and September 9. Learn more and register [on our website](#).

COVID-19:

ECHO Idaho’s most popular series currently meets from noon to 1 p.m. MST every Tuesday. Subject to change – please check the schedule [on our website](#).

Behavioral Health in Primary Care:

Learn best practices for treating common mental health conditions. Sessions are from noon to 1 p.m. MST on the first and third Wednesdays of the month; [join us August 19](#) for “Non-psychiatric Medication Prescribing: Implications for Mental Health and Psychiatric Care.”

Opioid Addiction and Treatment:

Our longest-running series has seen an increase in attendance due to the burden of the coronavirus on those with substance use disorders. Sessions are from 12:15 – 1:15 p.m. MST on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month; [join us August 13](#) for “CDC Guidelines on Prescribing Opioids.”

Missed a session?

[Find it on our YouTube channel!](#)

ECHO Idaho in the News

On March 24, ECHO Idaho hosted a virtual panel presentation about COVID-19 with infectious disease and geriatric specialists. [Read the press release here](#). The session set a new attendance record - 730 people – and subsequently, ECHO Idaho began offering the COVID-19 program twice weekly.

ECHO Idaho was recognized as **key to the state's coronavirus response** in this article from the [Daily News](#).

The Idaho Business Review emphasized ECHO's effort to **disseminate crucial and timely information** about COVID-19 to Idaho's medical professionals [in this article](#).

Dir. Lachelle Smith and Dr. Ann Lima of Clearwater Valley Hospital in Orofino were [interviewed on Boise State Public Radio's Idaho Matters](#) about Project ECHO, **why it works for a rural state like Idaho** and COVID-19.

The [Mountain West News Bureau](#) devoted nearly five minutes of airtime to ECHO Idaho's statewide impact. Special thanks to **Chrystal Anardi, LCSW; Lynn Kohlmeier, MD; and Megan Dunay, MD, MPH**, for participating in this segment.

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