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Subject: Highlights from the Milbank Memorial Fund – January 2015

Connecting Social Services with Health Outcomes

Is there a correlation between how much a state spends on social services and its population health outcomes? Are there ways for states to integrate social and health spending in order to improve population health outcomes?

That was the focus of a talk given by Elizabeth Bradley, PhD, Professor of Health Policy at the Yale School of Public Health and Director of the Yale Global Health Leadership Institute, at a Group Steering Committee meeting earlier this month.

Co-author with Lauren A. Taylor of the 2013 book, *The American Healthcare Paradox: More Is Getting Us Less*, Professor Bradley focuses on the relationship between health spending and health outcomes—specifically why a country like the U.S. spends more on health care than other countries yet has poorer health outcomes.

"Health and health care are not the same thing," she said, citing literature that maintains that health outcomes are determined by...

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THE VIEW FROM HERE: "Doing Population Health": Teaching a Pig to Sing?

Christopher F. Koller, President of the Milbank Memorial Fund

"Don't try to teach a pig to sing, Chris," a colleague once advised me, quoting the well-known proverb: "You won't succeed and you will only tick off the pig."

The image of singing swine seems particularly apt right now as we look at the question of how medical providers can practice "population health." A recent op-ed in *The Milbank Quarterly* about presentations about community health and paramedicine workers have led me to think about the music and the singers involved in the effort.

"Population health" is a new catchphrase in health policy. Policymakers say they want it, and providers say they do it. Consultants can help everybody get it. With the well-documented problems of fee-for-service medicine, payers find the possibility of holding some entity accountable for clinical outcomes of a group of people very appealing.

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All Payer Claims Databases: Unlocking the Potential

Across the country, All Payer Claims Databases (APCD) are providing unprecedented policy opportunities to improve health care delivery, according to a new issue brief published by the Network for Excellence in Health Innovation (NEHI), with support from the Milbank Memorial Fund. APCD databases are only starting to be used to their full potential as policymakers grapple with them.

Find out what state leaders and researchers had to say about exploring the opportunities learned in leveraging APCDs to advance health services research.

[Read the Issue Brief](#)

Upcoming Milbank-Supported Events

Celebrating Yale School of Public Health's Centennial

In recognition of the Yale School of Public Health and the Milbank Memorial Fund's long history of supporting forward-looking public health initiatives, the School will host six lectures during 2015, the first Milbank Lecture Series on Public Health in the 21st Century. The first Milbank Lecture Series on Public Health in the 21st Century will be held on February 11, 2015, featuring Michael H. Gail, MD, PhD, senior investigator, biostatistics branch, National Institutes of Health Cancer Institute. Dr. Gail will be speaking about "Risk Models, Risk-Benefit, and Personalized Medicine." The first lecture is co-sponsored by Yale's Colin White Memorial Lecture.

Co-Sponsoring Medical Education Conference

Social mission innovation and reform in medical education. That's the focus of an upcoming conference, Beyond Flexner 2015: The Social Mission of Medical Education, which the Milbank Memorial Fund is co-sponsoring. Organized by the George Washington University and the University of New Mexico, the conference will be held on April 13 to 15 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The Beyond Flexner movement, which started with a conference in 2012, brought national attention to medical schools of medicine that had a strong social mission commitment, created a forum for sharing innovations among socially accountable medical schools, and legitimized the role of medical education in addressing health inequities.

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About the Milbank Memorial Fund

The Milbank Memorial Fund is an endowed operating foundation that works to improve the health of populations by collaborating with and decision makers with the best available evidence and experience. Founded in 1905, the Fund engages in nonpartisan research, collaboration, and communication on significant issues in health policy. It does this work in three ways: publishing high-quality evidence-based reports, books, and *The Milbank Quarterly*, a peer-reviewed journal of population health and health policy; convening state health policy decision makers on issues they identify as important; and building communities of health policymakers to improve their effectiveness. www.milbank.org.

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