



Statement of Commitment for NAM Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic

For more than 25 years, the Institute for Patient- and Family-Centered Care (IPFCC) has led change to ensure that patients and families are respected as essential partners in all settings and at all levels of health care. The opioid epidemic is no exception. We cannot overcome this crisis without partnering with patients, families, and communities who are impacted, including individuals with lived experience of opioid use disorder. Therefore, as a guiding principle, IPFCC is committed to fostering significant and structured partnership with patients and families in developing, implementing, and evaluating strategies to address the opioid epidemic.

IPFCC's initial work to promote and support partnerships included collaborating with PFCC partners to hold a Patient and Family Advisor (PFA) Summit on the Opioid Epidemic. The goals of the Summit were to increase understanding of the opioid epidemic from the perspective of patients and families; highlight programs and responses that reflected partnerships with patients and families; and strengthen skills for collaboration moving forward. In recognition that addressing the opioid epidemic requires partnership among diverse stakeholders, participants in the Summit included patient/family advisors (patients, family members, or members of the community), researchers, clinicians, health care organizational leaders, policymakers, and community organizations. A White Paper that is available on IPFCC's website, *Partnering with Patients and Families to Strengthen Approaches to the Opioid Epidemic*, reflects recommendations from the Summit.

Moving forward, IPFCC commits to supporting continued partnerships by:

- Identifying and addressing barriers to partnership for patients, families, and individuals with lived experience, all of whom offer unique insights for the development of programs and policies that more effectively address the needs of patients and families.
- Addressing gaps in training to help patients and families partner effectively in opioid-related quality and safety improvement initiatives.
- Preparing other stakeholders, including health care leaders, health care providers, researchers, and other national, state, and local organizations, to foster supportive environments for partnership with patients and families.
- Developing programs to involve PFAs with lived experience in health professions training.
- Partnering with patients and families to develop, test, and implement policies for transforming clinical practice

- Gathering and disseminating examples of partnerships with PFAs in addressing the opioid epidemic, to aid in the development of best practices and lessons learned.

As a Networking Organization and member of the NAM Action Health Professional Education and Training Working Group, IPFCC will integrate the concepts of partnering with patients and families and health professionals across disciplines and settings to improve pain management, appropriate use of opioids, and supportive recovery programs into our work, including our technical assistance, seminars, and our international conference. IPFCC looks forward to bringing the voices of patients and families to the important work of the *Action Collaborative*.