

PODCAST 5: INTEGRATING CMH PEDIATRICS WITH KU MEDICAL CENTER

DR. JASON NEWLAND

THIS IS JASON NEWLAND, MEDICAL DIRECTOR OF PATIENT SAFETY AND I'M THE HOST OF OUR FIFTH EPISODE OF OUR CMH DISCOVERY PODCAST. TODAY, I'M JOINED BY DR. MIKE ARTMAN, WHO IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS. HE'S ACTUALLY ONE OF MY BOSSES SO I TRY TO BE NICE TO HIM FOR THE MOST PART.

TODAY, I THOUGHT WE WOULD HAVE DR. ARTMAN ON BECAUSE HE'S BEEN INVOLVED WITH SOMETHING I THINK IS SUPER, SUPER EXCITING, WHICH IS INTEGRATING THE DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS MEDICAL CENTER. BEING A LIFELONG JAYHAWK FAN, I FEEL PRETTY EXCITED ABOUT THIS. WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE FOR THE EMPLOYEES TO KIND OF HEAR WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON AND HOW WE GOT TO THIS.

DR. MIKE ARTMAN

GOOD MORNING JASON. IT'S A PLEASURE TO CHAT WITH YOU ABOUT THIS. I'M EXCITED ABOUT THIS TOO. I THINK THIS IS A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY, THE KANSAS CITY METRO REGION AND REALLY FOR CHILDREN IN THE ENTIRE MIDWEST AS WE BRING TOGETHER A UNIFIED, COHESIVE APPROACH TO NOT ONLY INTEGRATING OUR CLINICAL CARE FOR CHILDREN, BUT ALSO OUR RESEARCH MISSIONS AND OUR EDUCATIONAL MISSIONS. ANOTHER IMPORTANT AREA WE'RE GOING TO WORK ON TOGETHER IS ADVOCACY FOR CHILDREN SO WE HAVE A SINGLE VOICE FOR CHILDREN IN OUR REGION. I THINK THE OPPORTUNITIES ARE PROFOUND.

DR. NEWLAND

I'VE BEEN HERE SEVEN YEARS AND YOU'VE BEEN HERE TWO YEARS. THERE'S BEEN MOMENTUM. BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK HAS TIPPED US TO GET TO THIS POINT? WE'RE ACTUALLY NOW REALLY SITTING DOWN AND THERE ARE SOME REALLY FIRM PLANS OF THIS HAPPENING.

DR. ARTMAN

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF KEY DRIVERS AND THINGS THAT HAVE OCCURRED OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS THAT MAKE THIS THE RIGHT TIME. AND YOU'RE RIGHT, THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL RUNS AT THIS IN THE PAST. I THINK THE COMMUNITY HAS ALWAYS THOUGHT IT MADE A LOT OF SENSE. I THINK THE MAIN THING THAT IS PUSHING THIS NOW IS CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP ON BOTH SIDES OF THE STATE LINE. THE ECONOMIC PRESSURES ARE A LOT DIFFERENT NOW. IT'S VERY WASTEFUL TO DUPLICATE SERVICES. BY BRINGING OUR SERVICES TOGETHER WE CAN AVOID THAT DUPLICATION AND WE CAN CONTINUE TO GROW BOTH OUR PROGRAMS IN EASTERN KANSAS AND WESTERN MISSOURI AND THROUGHOUT THE REGION. THAT'S OUR GOAL IS TO PROVIDE A RESOURCE FOR PATIENTS AND FAMILIES IN THE MIDWEST SO THEY DON'T HAVE TO TRAVEL FOR SPECIALTY SERVICES TO ACCESS QUALITY CARE, ACCESS PEDIATRICS. IT'S JUST THE WHOLE PACKAGE.

DR. NEWLAND

THERE ARE SOME THAT MIGHT SAY WHAT HAPPENS TO UMKC? THERE ARE SOME THAT ARE WORRIED DO WE LOSE UMKC. HOW IS THAT GOING TO BE HANDLED?

DR. ARTMAN

WE'VE BEEN A PROUD PARTNER WITH UMKC FOR OVER 40 YEARS. WE HAVE A STRONG RELATIONSHIP WITH UMKC. THAT'S NOT GOING TO CHANGE AT ALL. WE FEEL LIKE THAT'S BEEN AN IMPORTANT PART OF GROWTH AND MATURATION OF BOTH UMKC SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND CHILDREN'S MERCY. THAT PARTNERSHIP REMAINS. WE'RE GOING TO SIMPLY USE THAT AS A FOUNDATION TO BUILD OUR NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS.

DR. NEWLAND

WHICH IS GREAT. I FEEL UMKC HAS BEEN SO IMPORTANT IN MY DEVELOPMENT. IT'S ALWAYS GOOD TO HEAR THAT. NOW, WE'RE A BIG DEPARTMENT. WE'RE A MEDIUM TO LARGE-SIZED DEPARTMENT?

DR. ARTMAN

WE'RE A LARGE-SIZED DEPARTMENT. WE HAVE NEARLY 400 FACULTY MEMBERS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS. AND ANOTHER 600 STAFF. SO IT'S A PRETTY BIG OPERATION.

DR. NEWLAND

I CAN IMAGINE IT'S A PRETTY COMPLEX UNDERTAKING TO JOIN WITH ANOTHER MAJOR UNIVERSITY.

DR. ARTMAN

YES. IT IS INDEED.

DR. NEWLAND

WHAT ARE SOME OF THESE BIG CHALLENGES?

DR. ARTMAN

WELL, WE'VE ENGAGED AN OUTSIDE CONSULTING FIRM. IT'S CALLED ECG MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS. THEY HAVE A LOT OF EXPERIENCE IN HEALTHCARE AND SPECIFICALLY IN THE PEDIATRIC SPACE. THEY'VE WORKED WITH A NUMBER OF CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS AND PEDIATRIC PROGRAMS AROUND THE COUNTRY. THEY'VE BEEN VERY HELPFUL IN HELPING US FRAME THE APPROACH AND THE STRATEGY.

WE'VE DEVELOPED A SERIES OF INTEGRATION TEAMS, WORKING GROUPS THAT WILL ADDRESS ALL OF OUR ENTERPRISE SO THE CLINICAL GROUPS, RESEARCH , EDUCATION, FACULTY AFFAIRS, FINANCE, ADVOCACY, LEGAL ISSUES AND COMMUNICATION. SO WE'RE PUTTING TOGETHER THESE TEAMS COMPRISED OF KEY INDIVIDUALS.

WE'RE PUTTING TOGETHER THESE TEAMS COMPRISED OF LEADERS, THOUGHT LEADERS FROM BOTH SIDES, KU AND CHILDREN'S MERCY. WE PUT THESE TEAMS TOGETHER WITH BASICALLY A VISION OF HERE'S WHAT WE WANT THE OUTCOME TO BE. WE DON'T KNOW EXACTLY HOW WE ARE GOING TO GET THERE, BUT YOU PEOPLE WORKING IN THE TRENCHES AND SEEING IT DAY TO DAY ARE SMART ENOUGH TO FIGURE IT OUT. WE'LL DEVELOP THESE TEAMS AND WE ACTUALLY HAVE A KICK OFF DINNER FOR THIS WEEK, THURSDAY NIGHT. THERE'S AN OVERALL STEERING COMMITTEE TO CHARGE THE TEAMS AND GET THIS PROCESS GOING.

THE WORK WILL BEGIN LARGELY IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. WE HOPE THE TEAMS CAN HAVE THEIR WORK DONE BY SUMMERTIME SO THAT WE CAN BEGIN THE IMPLEMENTATION PHASE. SOME OF THIS WILL BE PRETTY EASY; THERE'S A LOT OF LOW HANGING FRUIT THAT WE CAN GATHER UP PRETTY QUICKLY. SOME OF IT WILL TAKE SEVERAL YEARS TO WORK OUT. ISSUES AROUND FACULTY BENEFITS, FACULTY APPOINTMENTS. ISSUES AROUND BEST PLACES AND SITES TO PROVIDE CARE.

THE OVERARCHING PRINCIPLE, THE THING THAT WE AGREE ON IS THAT WE ARE GOING TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN DO MAKE SURE THAT THE CHILD AND FAMILY ARE AT THE CENTER OF EVERYTHING THAT WE DO. ANY CHANGES WE MAKE, ANY PROGRAMMATIC CHANGES IS WITH THE GOAL OF HOW WE IMPROVE CARE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WITHIN OUR REGION.

DR. NEWLAND

THE PRINCIPLE OF HAVING CHILD AND FAMILY FIRST IS SOMETHING NO ONE WILL ARGUE WITH.

DR. ARTMAN

THAT'S BEEN OUR THOUGHT. MY PARTNER AT KU, DR. STEVEN SEITZ. STEVE HAS BEEN TERRIFIC. STEVE AND I HAVE BEEN WORKING TOGETHER AND AT OUR VERY FIRST MEETING LAST SEPTEMBER, WE AGREED THAT WOULD BE OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLE. I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT IT'S GREAT FOR KANSAS AND MISSOURI TO COMPETE ON THE ATHLETIC FIELDS BUT IF WE AS A COMMUNITY CAN'T COME TOGETHER TO CARE FOR OUR CHILDREN, THEN SHAME ON US. WHAT'S WRONG WITH OUR COMMUNITY IF WE CAN'T GET PAST THOSE COMPETITIVE FEELINGS TO COME TOGETHER FOR OUR CHILDREN?

DR. NEWLAND

WE'RE A MAJOR TEACHING INSTITUTION. KU IS A MAJOR TEACHING INSTITUTION. LAST WEEK WE HAD DENISE (BRACOR?) ON TO DISCUSS THE NEW ACGME REQUIREMENTS AND HOW THAT'S CHANGING. HOW'S THAT GOING TO GO? HOW'S THAT BEING ENVISIONED AT THIS POINT? I THINK THAT WILL BE CHALLENGING.

DR. ARTMAN

IT WILL BE A CHALLENGE. HOW THE RESIDENCY PROGRAMS AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS WILL EVOLVE OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR AT THIS TIME. AGAIN, THE GOAL WOULD BE TO HAVE THE VERY BEST PEDIATRIC PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS, RESIDENTS AND FELLOWS IN THE REGION, IF NOT THE NATION. I THINK WE ARE POISED TO DO THAT.

DR. NEWLAND

I ABSOLUTELY AGREE WITH THAT. WITH THE RESEARCH ENTERPRISE THAT IS NOW AVAILABLE AND THE BIGGER ACADEMIC PRESENCE, YOU CAN DO A LOT MORE. TRYING TO THINK ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE MIGHT WANT TO ASK, WE'RE THE DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS, BUT WHAT ABOUT FOR EXAMPLE, THE DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY, WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN WITH THEM?

DR. ARTMAN

IT'S GOING TO BE INTERESTING BECAUSE WHEN WE STARTED IT WAS ABOUT PUTTING TOGETHER A UNIFIED, SINGLE DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS. IT'S CLEAR THAT THIS GOES WAY BEYOND PEDIATRICS AND TOUCHES EVERY OTHER SUB-SPECIALTY. ACTUALLY, WHEN WE FIRST PUT TOGETHER OUR WORK GROUPS, WE DIDN'T HAVE A SURGICAL WORK GROUP AND ON THIS SIDE OF STATE LINE RD. AND ON THE OTHER SIDE, SURGEONS ARE SAYING, "HEY WHAT ABOUT US? YOU KNOW, THIS IMPACTS US. WE'D LIKE TO BE INVOLVED." SO NOW WE'VE PUT TOGETHER A SURGICAL WORK GROUP AND THEY WILL LOOK AT THINGS AROUND TRAINING, RESEARCH, SUB-SPECIALTY ISSUES, THOSE KINDS OF THINGS.

DR. NEWLAND

WELL, THAT'S EXCITING.

DR. ARTMAN

I THINK IT'S REALLY EXCITING. IF WE CAN BRING THE SURGEONS TOGETHER. JUST BRINGING THE SURGEONS TOGETHER TO MEET, THEY'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO MEET AT 4 IN THE MORNING. WE'LL GET THEM TOGETHER. THERE'S A LOT OF ENTHUSIASM AMONG THE SURGICAL GROUPS TO PUT THIS TOGETHER AS WELL.

DR. NEWLAND

WELL GREAT. I REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR TIME TODAY.

DR. ARTMAN

MY PLEASURE. THIS IS SO IMPORTANT. I LOVE TALKING ABOUT IT.

DR. NEWLAND

WE'LL DEFINITELY HAVE YOU ON AGAIN IN THE FUTURE TO HEAR HOW IT'S GOING. AGAIN, THANK YOU ALL FOR LISTENING AND IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS PLEASE E-MAIL ME. AND IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS FOR DR. ARTMAN, I WILL FORWARD THOSE ON TO HIM. WE'LL LOOK FORWARD TO TALKING TO YOU ALL NEXT WEEK.

DR. ARTMAN

MY PLEASURE. THANK YOU JASON.