

Medicaid Outcomes Distributed Research Network: Examining Quality Improvement for Medicaid Programs (MODRN EQUIP)

MODRN is a collaborative effort between the State-University Partnership Learning Network (SUPLN) and the Medicaid Medical Director Network (MMDN) to support evidence-based policymaking with a focus on transforming Medicaid-financed healthcare. By conducting multi-state Medicaid analyses and disseminating the findings to policymakers, MODRN¹ focuses on improving quality and access of healthcare provided to Medicaid beneficiaries.

What is MODRN EQUIP?

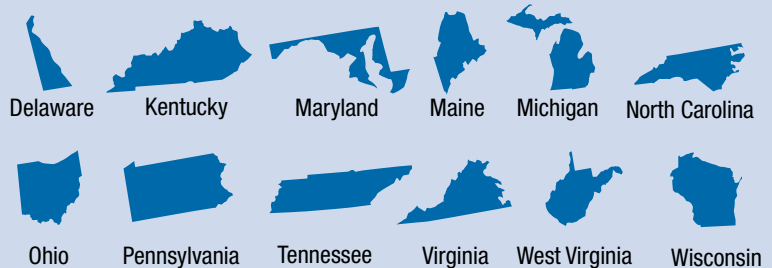
MODRN EQUIP is one of four research collaboratives across the country funded through the **National Institutes of Health (NIH) Helping to End Addiction Long-term (HEAL) Initiative** to foster an opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment systems patients can count on. It is comprised of three integrated research projects, involving various participating states, that over the next 5 years will develop OUD quality measures that can be constructed at the provider-level, incorporate patient experience, and center health equity. Efficient and sustainable OUD quality measures developed and implemented by MODRN EQUIP will guide quality improvement initiatives and Medicaid policy decisions.

What are the three projects?

Project 1

Focus: Develop provider-level OUD treatment quality measures using administrative claims data

Project Directors: **Marguerite Burns** and **Evan Cole**



Project 2

Focus: Measure OUD patient-reported outcomes and examine associations with claims-based quality measures

Project Directors: **Andrew Barnes** and **Sarah Clark**



Project 3

Focus: Implement and examine the effectiveness of a practice-level quality improvement initiative for OUD

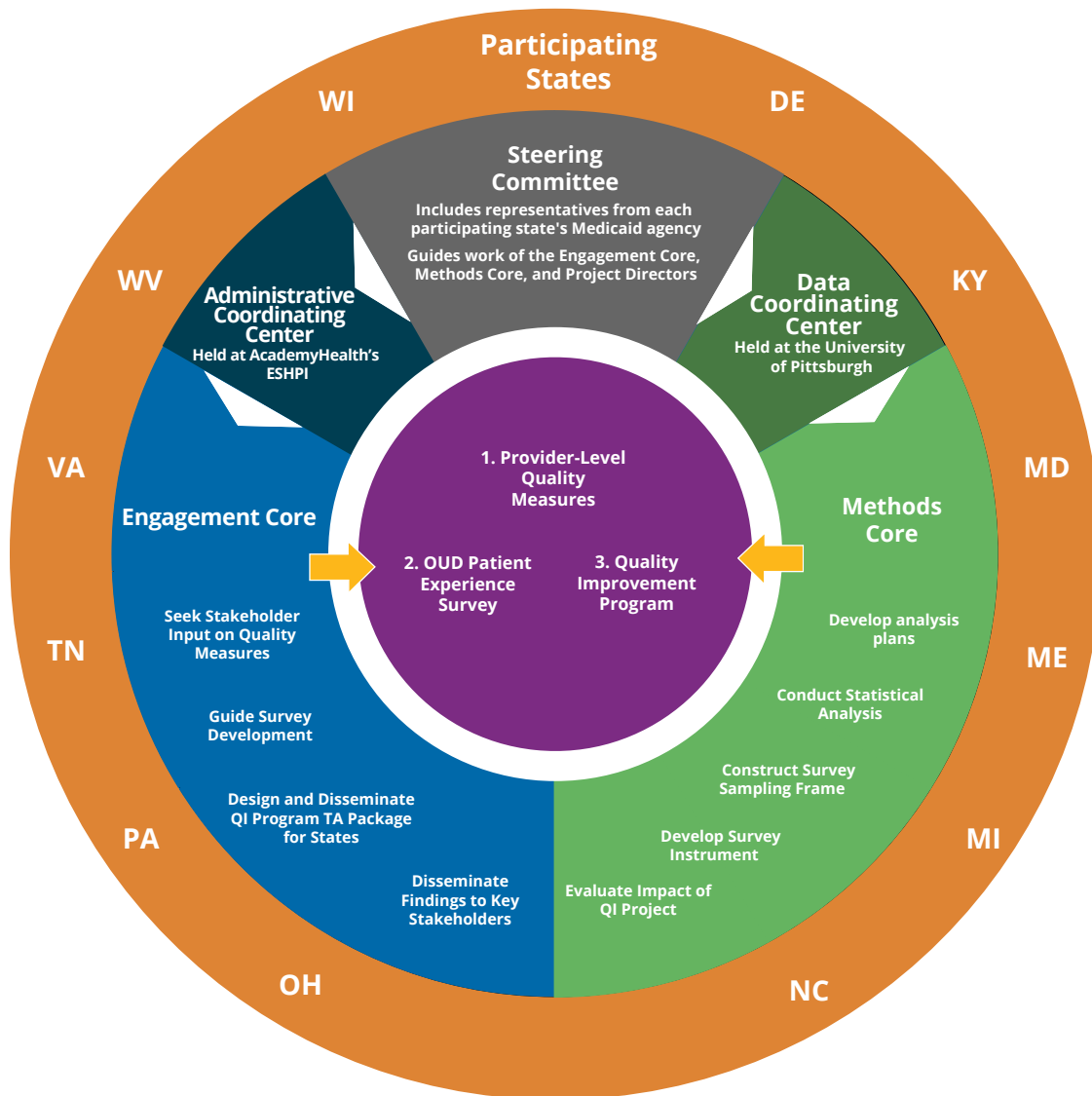
Project Directors: **Dushka Crane** and **Adam Gordon**



¹ As of February 2026, the following states participate in MODRN: Delaware, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, North Carolina, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin.

Why is MODRN EQUIP important?

Public payers in the US, predominantly Medicaid, cover more than half (54%) of individuals who need OUD treatment. Though state Medicaid programs have changed policy to expand the continuum of care, remove barriers to treatment, and improve quality of OUD care, they are hindered by OUD quality measurement systems that are underdeveloped. This limitation hinders opportunities for targeted intervention and robust evaluation of policy effects. MODRN EQUIP will draw on robust university-state partnerships in 12 states accounting for 24% of US Medicaid enrollment to support efforts to improve OUD quality.



Principal Investigators

Julie Donohue, PhD, Professor & Chair, Department of Health Policy and Management, School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh

Andrew Barnes, PhD, MPH, Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University

MODRN Administrative Coordinating Center

Susan Kennedy, MPP, MSW, Senior Director, Evidence-Informed State Health Policy Institute, AcademyHealth

To learn more about MODRN, visit our website:

<https://academyhealth.org/about/programs/medicaid-outcomes-distributed-research-network-modrn>.