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In reviewing statewide opioid prescribing trends and data, Ste. Genevieve County is in the epicenter of opioid saturated counties. To be a catalyst for change, Laura took lead in the development of and has led an Opioid Stewardship Committee within our organization. The primary goal of the committee is to reduce the quantity of prescriptions, quantity of tablets per prescription by our providers, and promote awareness and education of opioids within our community- patients and providers. The objectives specifically address the Triple Aim approach to quality healthcare- better health, better care, and lower costs. The committee has developed numerous actionable items to decrease opioid misuse and abuse by patients who are prescribed opioids in our Emergency Department, Same Day Surgery, and Physician Clinics.

- Ste. Genevieve County was one of the 1st rural counties in the area to participate in the state PDMP (Prescription Drug Monitoring Program)
- Successful implementation of an e-prescribing program to foster accountability and reduce patient risk with opioid prescribing.
- The EMR has been tailored to alert physicians of what MME (Morphine Milligram Equivalent) that patient is being prescribed before the prescription is issued.
- By education, the committee has successfully decreased ED prescriptions for >3 days supply of opioids by 52% and prescriptions for >15 tablets have decreased by 41% over the past 12 months.
- While being conscientious of the acute nature of pain following surgery, prescriptions in this area for >30 tablets have decreased by 30% and >5 day quantity prescriptions have decreased by 13%.
- The committee has teamed up with the local health department to promote education on the opioid epidemic in our community about opioids
- With collaboration with the health department and our pharmacy, Narcan education is now readily available to community members.
- Development of Pain Management Contracts in our physician clinics to promote patient accountability

Where: Ste. Genevieve, Missouri

When: January 2017- current

How: The above outcomes demonstrate the resilience, professionalism, and ability of Laura to lead a team to meet an identified need within our community and organization. Laura has fantastic rapport and respect from our physicians.

Why: Opioids is a need of epidemic proportions across the state of Missouri. Laura's efforts with the Opioid Stewardship Committee are aligned with goals of our hospital, but as well of the population of patients that we serve. Laura demonstrates her desire to promote safety and positive outcomes within our community. All of the interventions, including utilization of the PDMP, monitoring prescriptions practices, and community education are all innovative to our community. Her efforts are having a measurable, positive impact to our patient population. Therefore, Laura is the best person to be a recipient of the Rural Health Champion Award.