

Improving Lethal Means Counseling Documentation for Youth Admitted to A Pediatric Behavioral Health Service

Kelsey AB Gastineau, MD

Collaborators: Derek Williams MD, Ryan Wolf MD, Greg Plemmons MD, Sarah Hart MSN, Katie Spencer PsyD, Heather Kreth PsyD, Logan Garfield MD, Scott Risney MD, Anna Henricks BS, Emmy Patterson MD, Donald Pierce MD, Dave Johnson MD

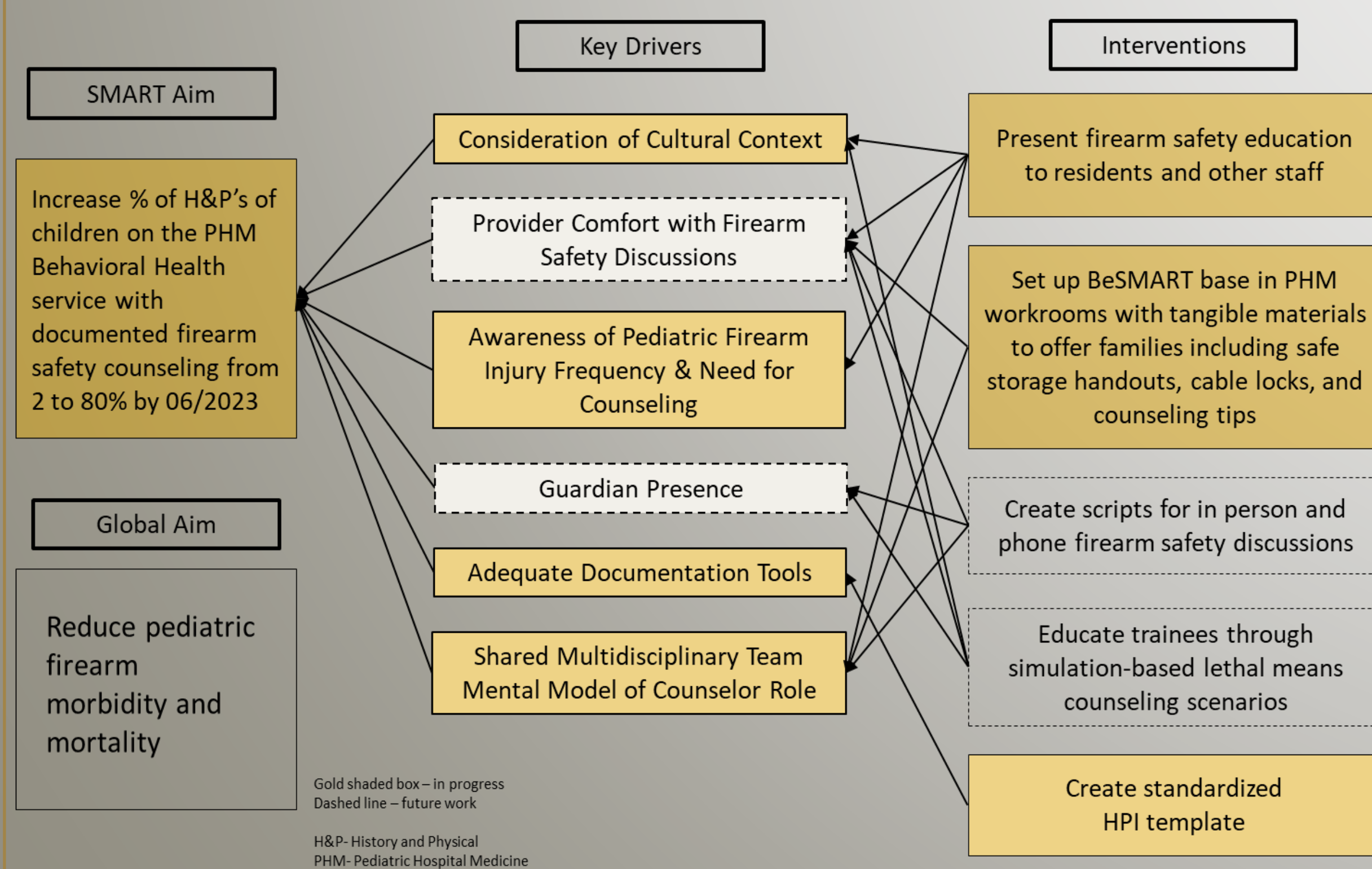
Background

- Firearms are the leading cause of death for US youth
- Safe firearm storage reduces the risk of firearm suicide
- Physician counseling combined with the provision of a tangible tool (e.g. cable lock) increases safe storage of firearms

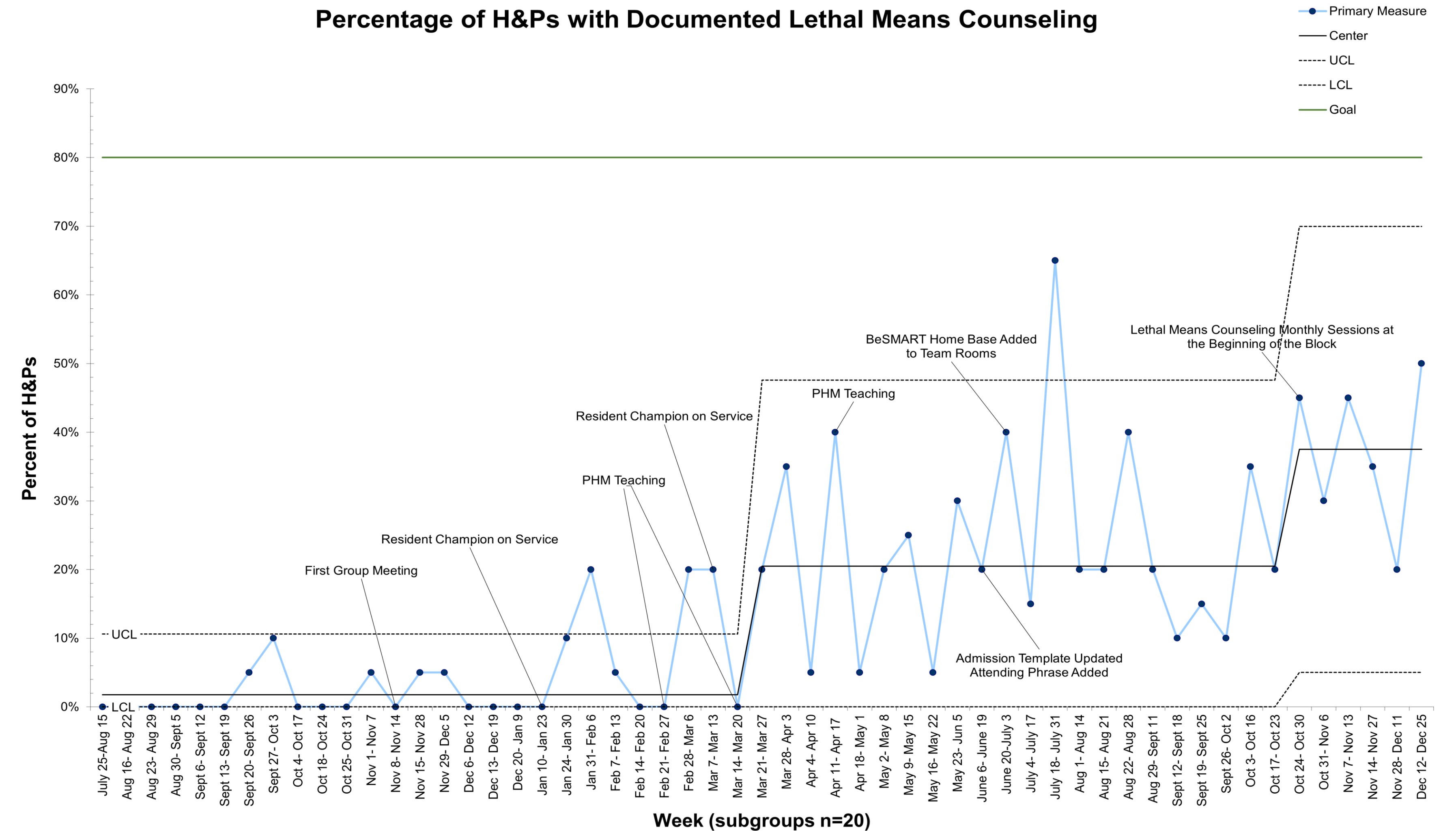
Methods

- A multidisciplinary team launched a quality improvement project with the aim to **increase lethal means counseling during the history and physical (H&P) for children admitted with psychiatric concerns at Monroe Carell Jr Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt from 2% to 80% by June 30, 2023**
- Initial interventions included informal and formal didactics to trainees as well as materials and storage for families.
- In June, electronic health record prompts were added and safe storage materials were added to work rooms.
- In October 2021, a lethal means counseling training session was added to the beginning of each monthly educational block

Lethal Means Counseling Documentation Key Driver Diagram



Percentage of H&Ps with Documented Lethal Means Counseling



Results

- There were 1100 total encounters included from July 2020-December 2022 with a baseline mean lethal means counseling from August-December 2021 of 1.8% (n=340).
- Special cause variation with 8 points above the mean line resulted in a centerline shift from a mean of 1.8% to 20.5% in mid-March following educational interventions.
- A second shift was observed following the monthly training sessions to 37.5% with two points in the outer third of the control limits and a third point outside the control limits.

Discussion

- Trainee education and distribution of family education and storage devices were associated with an increase in lethal means counseling documentation, but not yet to our goal.
- Next steps will include simulation to improve comfort with discussions and solutions to nighttime admissions without guardians present.