

Dr. Angela Lamson exemplifies the principles of family-oriented care through her unwavering commitment to advancing collaborative, family-centered healthcare in clinical practice, education, research, and leadership. Throughout her career, she has championed approaches that recognize health and illness as experiences embedded within family systems and communities, while preparing future healthcare professionals to deliver care that is collaborative, equitable, and responsive to the needs of patients and their families. Dr. Lamson most notably embodies the principles of collaborating with patients, families, and healthcare providers and providing care in the context of family and community, while also demonstrating a deep commitment to supporting family participation in care and respecting cultural diversity.

A hallmark of Dr. Lamson's work has been her ability to bring together patients, families, healthcare professionals, and community partners to design, implement, and evaluate innovative models of integrated care, including her contributions to the development and evaluation of the Relationally-Centered Integrated Behavioral Health (RCIBH) model. As a leader in collaborative healthcare, she has consistently fostered partnerships across disciplines, creating environments in which physicians, behavioral health providers, nurses, social workers, and other professionals work together alongside patients and families to improve health outcomes. Rather than viewing families as passive recipients of care, Dr. Lamson has advanced models that recognize families as essential members of the healthcare team whose experiences, strengths, and perspectives are critical to successful treatment and long-term well-being.

Dr. Lamson's scholarship reflects this collaborative philosophy. Her research has advanced the science of integrated behavioral health, medical family therapy (MedFT), and interprofessional practice, consistently emphasizing the importance of engaging patients and families throughout the continuum of care. Her work has influenced healthcare systems to develop more effective approaches for addressing chronic illness, behavioral health conditions, and complex medical needs through coordinated, team-based care that values the voices of both patients and families.

Equally significant is Dr. Lamson's dedication to ensuring that care is delivered within the context of each patient's family and community. She has long advocated for understanding the broader relational, social, and cultural factors that shape health behaviors, treatment engagement, and recovery. Through both her clinical work and educational leadership, she has helped healthcare professionals recognize that optimal care extends beyond treating symptoms—it requires understanding family relationships, community resources, cultural values, and social drivers that influence health outcomes. This systems-oriented

perspective has transformed how countless students, trainees, and professionals approach patient care.

As an educator and mentor, Dr. Lamson has had a profound impact on generations of clinicians who now practice family-oriented, collaborative care across the country, including her significant contributions to establishing the first accredited MedFT doctoral program in 2005 at East Carolina University (ECU). She has consistently modeled approaches that encourage providers to engage families in shared decision-making, facilitate open communication among healthcare teams and family members, and create care plans that reflect the goals, strengths, and values of patients and their loved ones. Many of her former students and mentees now serve as leaders in integrated care settings, extending her influence far beyond her own practice.

Dr. Lamson has also demonstrated exceptional leadership in promoting culturally responsive care. She has emphasized the importance of recognizing the diverse cultural, relational, and community contexts that influence health and healthcare experiences. Through her scholarship, mentorship, and service, she has encouraged healthcare providers to approach every family with humility, curiosity, and respect, ensuring that care plans are developed collaboratively and reflect each family's unique values and circumstances.

Beyond her direct contributions to patient care, Dr. Lamson has advanced the field of family-oriented healthcare through extensive professional leadership and policy advocacy. Her service within the Collaborative Family Healthcare Association and numerous interdisciplinary initiatives has strengthened the integration of family-centered principles into education, research, and healthcare delivery. She has consistently advocated for healthcare systems that value collaboration, communication, and partnership with families as essential components of high-quality care.

Perhaps Dr. Lamson's greatest contribution is the lasting culture she has helped create. Through decades of leadership, scholarship, mentorship, and innovation, she has inspired healthcare professionals to view families not as visitors or observers, but as partners in healing. Her work has expanded the reach of family-oriented care across clinical settings, educational programs, and healthcare organizations, improving the experiences of countless patients and families.

For her extraordinary and sustained contributions to advancing collaborative, family-centered healthcare, Dr. Angela Lamson is an exceptionally deserving recipient of the CFHA Family Oriented Care Award. She exemplifies the award's principles through her lifelong commitment to partnering with patients, families, and healthcare teams, delivering

care within the context of family and community, fostering meaningful communication, and preparing future generations to carry these values forward.