

Transforming Community Health Nursing Education: Lessons Learned from Individual and Cross-Grantee Program Evaluations

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HRSA- NEPQR Grant



Bachelor of Science in Nursing Practicums in Community Settings Program (BPCS)

- New program begun in 2016
- 9 grantees each launched their own innovative projects to meet this aim
- Funding term: June 2016-June 2018
- Program purpose: "to increase experiential training opportunities for senior-level BSN students in primary care community-based settings by
 1. establishing and expanding upon academic-practice partnerships between schools of nursing and community-based clinical sites
 2. providing senior-level BSN students with meaningful clinical experiences and training in medically underserved and rural communities."

Educational Models Utilized for Experiential Learning

Preceptors- Trained preceptors in primary care

Immersion Experience

- Clinic Sites
- Home Visits
- Disaster Response

Service Learning

- Homeless Shelters and Clinic
- Local Jails
- Low Resource Housing Authorities
- Non Profit Organizations (United Way, Immigrant Networks, etc)
- Health Fairs and Health Promotion Events
- Nurse Managed Clinics

Transition to Practice

- Development of Case Management and Primary Care content for students in the transition course
- Assignments, Journaling, Faculty Site visits



Educational Enhancements-Didactic

- Refinement of existing curriculum for integrated population health across all courses
- Addition of stand alone courses and electives (community health, health disparities, primary care)
- All faculty training emphasizing population health

Involvement and Partners

Demographics Served

- Rural
- Urban
- Native American
- Migrant
- Inner city underserved

Clinical Placements

- FQHC
- Native-Hawaiian Health Care Centers
- Health Department
- Rural Health Clinics
- Public Housing
- Senior Housing
- Nurse Managed Clinics
- Home Visits
- Indian Health Services

Cross Grantee Evaluation

- One evaluator conducted an independent evaluation of all grantees in an effort to better understand synergies between programs and outcomes contributing to the field of community health nursing
- Patten's principles of evaluation primary framework
- Participant (PI) interviews took place at 2018 ACHNE institute

Findings

- Retrospective and prospective
- Theory of change
- Shift from acute care to community based care
- Implementation different but objectives similar
 - Increase and strengthen academic/practice partnerships
 - Increase student knowledge and improve attitudes toward community based care through academic preparation and immersive experiences
 - Increase faculty knowledge of the enhanced RN role
 - Increase practices' use of the enhanced RN role through enhanced education and self efficacy

Findings, con't

- Principle 1
 - Academic practice partnerships are mutually beneficial. Long term investments
- Principle 2
 - Faculty are key drivers of change from acute to primary care
- Principle 3
 - Cost effectiveness and sustainability of the expanded RN role are important to community based practices
- Principle 4
 - Experiences expose nursing students to alternate career paths

1. Academic practice partnerships are mutually beneficial, long term investments

- Mutually beneficial need to break down silos that exist in an effort to benefit patients, the community and the practice of nursing

Strategies

Aim for philosophical and pragmatic alignment

Strive for leadership commitment

Develop a shared purpose

Identify faculty and practice champions

Articulate roles and manage expectations

Implement communication structures

2. Faculty are key drivers of change from acute to primary care

- Faculty have the unique ability to influence student and practice sites toward transformation to the enhanced RN role
- Faculty also influence the trajectory of students

3. Cost effectiveness and sustainability of the expanded RN role are important to community based practices

- Practices that embrace the enhanced RN role are more likely to hire recent graduates who have trained to the model

4. Experiences expose nursing students to alternate career paths

- For many students, careers in acute care are the default choices to practicing as an RN. Community based experiences broadens the view and orientation to possibilities

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