Introduction

Eye health and vision critical in child development.

Uncorrected visual problems can affect:

- Learning and Academic Success
- Social Development
- Health and Wellbeing Throughout Life

Purpose

Identify children in need of vision services.
Address barriers to receiving corrective eyewear.
Creating interprofessional learning opportunities.
Community Engagement.

Methods

Prior to Screening Program:
University and school system coordinators determined schools based on need and Title 1 status. School nurses and principals agree to participate in the program.

University students become certified as vision screeners, learn about social determinates of health and cultural competency.

Respond to Reflective Question: "By working with an inter-professional collaborative team, I expect to achieve the following".

Vision Screening Program:
Interprofessional student teams (2 nursing, 1 Honors and 1 optometry student) screen elementary students, conduct rescreeing and refer.

Respond to 2nd Reflective Question: "Looking back over the past few weeks, did you or did you not meet your expectations? What surprised you? What did you learn from working with other disciplines? What challenges did you have to overcome? How might working on this type of project/team assist you with future endeavors?"

Phonathon:
HISD administrators determined which schools to target for the phonathon based on student/school needs.
University students and staff, and administrators from the school district reached out to 104 families from 13 schools (8 out of 13 schools participated in vision screening program).

54 families completed survey, 12 families unaware of vision problem. 11 families needed assistance.

Barriers identified: lack of, or unsure of insurance, immigration status, and/or continued difficulty after local disaster.

Results

Interprofessional Collaborative/Cooperative Teams

Tier 1: Interprofessional Collaborative Team

- School District: Health and Medical Director
- School Nurses

Tier 2: Interprofessional Cooperative Team

- School Nurses
- Teachers
- Administrators
- University students and staff
- College of Nursing
- College of Optometry
- Honors College

Referrals for Corrective Eyewear

Elementary Students Vision Screening

Elementary Students: Referrals for Corrective Eyewear

Parents/Guardians of Elementary Students

Phonathon/See to Succeed

Reflective Themes

Understanding and Acknowledging

Different Perspectives

“I was able to better understand each person's role and responsibility,” and “different perspectives...allows for a more holistic approach.”

Learning Together and Sharing Experiences:
“collaborating together...allowed us to quickly screen hundreds of children...” "reflective communication...promotes goal achievement,” and “enjoyed working together...same compassion for caring for people.”

Challenges:
“language barriers...children having difficulty seeing...if (they) knew the letters of the alphabet,” “attention barriers...younger students...easily distracted,” “surprised by the volume of students...living in homeless shelters...and acuity of cases that end up in a school nurse office.”

Successful Outcomes:
“Interprofessional team successfully worked together...team efficient and more effective,” “through collaboration and communication...able to coordinate and direct the process that make tasks easier and fun,” “hands on,” “firsthand experience of working with interdiscplinary team...to conduct screenings,” and “seeing the challenges that the students face.”

Conclusions

An interprofessional team approach benefits all members involved. College students developed an understanding of different perspectives, solved challenges, while working and learning together. School nurses benefited as screenings were completed in a timely and effective manner and the elementary students received corrective eyewear which promotes health, well being and academic success.

References


