Abstract oral presentation: C Maree
Theme: Global family – international networks
Topic: Leadership development as a strategy to enhance interprofessional collaboration

Background:
Leadership development of maternal and child health nurses and midwives through the Maternal-Child Health Nurse Leadership Academy-Africa of Sigma Theta Tau International in partnership with Johnson & Johnson, has the spin-off benefit of interprofessional collaboration. Leadership skills are learnt through facilitated planning and implementation of quality improvement projects in a healthcare setting of own choice to improve healthcare of childbearing women, newborns and children up to 5 years old.

To improve healthcare of any population cannot be optimally done in isolation or disciplinary silos. Healthcare disciplines need each other to meet the patients’ and communities’ needs, and even more in low resource settings with staff shortages. Quality improvement projects based on Kouzes and Posner’s Leadership Challenge create space and skills for interprofessional collaboration.

Purpose:
To illustrate the availability of opportunities for interprofessional collaboration through a leadership development program.

Methods:
When reflecting on the retrospective measurable outcomes of Maternal-Child Leadership Academy in Africa, a breakdown is done of the various stakeholders identified as beneficiaries affected by the quality improvement projects to illustrate the opportunities created for interprofessional teamwork. This is done for four 18-month cohorts (pilot study plus 3 follow-up cohorts) and 42 quality improvement projects in maternal and child health, from 2014 until 2019.

The data was analysed using descriptive statistics.

Results:
A description is given of a variety of quality improvement projects in maternal, newborn and child healthcare, the healthcare professionals who were beneficiaries and the opportunities for breaking down disciplinary silos and initiate interprofessional collaboration.

Conclusion:
The MCHNLNA – Africa’s leadership development program is a useful tool to enhance interprofessional collaboration.

References:

Sigma Theta Tau International: https://www.sigmanursing.org