Advancing Community Oriented Registered Nursing: Educating Baccalaureate Nursing Students in Primary Care

Introduction

- RNs are key members of interprofessional primary care teams.

- Primary care--the delivery of comprehensive, accessible health care services by health care providers who are educated to:

  (1) address and meet individuals' personal health care needs,

  (2) develop sustained, trusting relationships, and

  (3) account for the social determinants of health and environment of individuals, families, and communities (IOM, 2012).

- Primary care registered nursing involves preventively focused continuum of care for individuals, families, and communities.

- RNs have skills sets in leadership, management, clinical practice, judgment and reasoning that can enhance primary care (Improving Primary Care, 2018).

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Global Populations

People are living longer than in years past.

- By 2050 there will be 83.7 million people aged 65 years and older in U. S. (Ortman, Velkoff, & Hogan, 2014).

- Current trends reflect that many will be living with at least one chronic disease and many may have co-morbidities or various conditions, including mental health and substance abuse (Bodenheimer & Mason, 2017).

Registered Nurses

Registered nurses are in prime positions to take primary care leadership roles.

- RNs in primary care, e.g., involving more direct care, care management and navigation, and increased autonomy owe to better RN satisfaction (Flinter et al., 2017).

- RN "co-visits"-obtains history of present problem, vital signs, past medical/social histories, as well as, application of standing orders Funk and Davis (2015).

Initiatives

Initiatives to enhance and advance registered nursing in primary care have gained impetus and support.

- Funded by HRSA, the Advancing Community Oriented Registered Nursing (ACORN) Project was launched at the University of Texas Health San Antonio School of Nursing in July 2018.

- Key aim is to prepare baccalaureate nursing students in leadership roles to practice to the full scope of their licensure in primary care settings.

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ACORN Project

1

Convened meetings with faculty

2

Created a Community Leadership Advisory Board

(C-LAB)

3

Collaborated with another Texas university HRSA grant awardee

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Recruitment Sessions

- *Two sessions were conducted to provide junior nursing students with information.*

- *Interested students completed an application and submitted essay questions related to primary care.*

Interviews

- *Rigorous interview process in which two faculty members scored each student's set of interview responses.*

- *A faculty-approved rubric was used to ensure systematic objectivity and inter-rater reliability.*

Selection

- *A cohort of five, stellar students was selected.*

- *Students were introduced to community partners and faculty.*

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ACORN Students in Primary Care Settings

Spring and Fall 2019

- Adult 1 Chronic Illnesses course including mental health at VA Internal Medicine Primary Care Clinic

- Leadership & Management course at VA Internal Medicine Primary Care Cllinic with RN and manager preceptors

- Population Focused Health course at diverse primary care settings in the community

Summer 2019

- Interprofessional Education Research Program

- Memory Matters with Alzheimer's Association

- WellMed Senior Center and Boerne Primary Care Clinic

- Diabetes Camp at community center

- School of Nursing Pediatric Primary Care Clinic and Mobile Unit

- VA Video Connect

- Refugee and PRIDE Clinics

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Project Evaluation Measures

- Focus group interviews
- Demographic and observational data
- Pre- and post student experience comparisons
- Preceptor RN surveys
- Student reflective journaling.

Conclusion

- The ACORN Project model is setting a pathway for students to succeed
- Primary care RNs are in vital positions to expand their role on interprofessional health care teams

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QUESTIONS

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