A Transformation to Family-Focused Nursing Practice is Evident in Undergraduate Students

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Learning Experiences

• Integrate research
• Use evidence in practice
• Build competence, confidence and enthusiasm
Exemplar One: Family Assessment
Calgary Family Assessment Model

- **Structural**
  - Internal
  - External
  - Context

- **Developmental**
  - Stages
  - Tasks
  - Attachments

- **Functional**
  - Instrumental
  - Expressive
Family Interview Frameworks

- Calgary Family Assessment Model (CFAM)
- Family Systems Stressor/Strength Inventory
- Friedman Family Assessment Model
- Denham Family Health Model
Denham Family Health Model

• Contextual Perspective
  – Micro-, meso-, exo-, macro-, and chrono-system influences

• Functional Perspective
  – Member interactions and core processes

• Structural Perspective
  – Family health routines
  – Health beliefs/values
Students Write...

- Summary of findings
- Family strengths and problems
- Self-critique
Genogram

Grand-parents

Aunts and uncles

Parents

Children

Wright and Leahey, 2013
Ecomap

School

Extended family

Work

Extended family

Wright and Leahey, 2013
Attachment Diagram

Grandparents

Aunts and uncles

Parents

Children

Wright and Leahey, 2013
Family Assessment Project

- Develop interview tool
- Conduct family interview
- Summarize assessment findings
- Integrate family theory
- Make recommendations for family health
- Analyze communication skills
Formative Assessment

• Encourages collaboration
• De-centers the teacher
• Broadens perspectives
• Prepares for evaluation of nursing practice
“I really have begun to understand how the interview process is a therapeutic nursing practice. In these interviews, the family gets a chance to express how they feel and what they are going through. Sometimes just having a listening ear that really cares and is present can heal a family emotionally.”

“The family can work through the problems that they are having by verbally talking through it in the interview. Providing a safe space for a family to share their experiences makes them happy and is therapeutic.”
Exemplar Two: Family Assessment, Intervention, and Evaluation

- Develop assessment tool
- Assess the family
- Identify relevant family constructs
- Research the problems
- Identify nursing actions
- Implement actions
- Evaluate outcomes
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Faculty Comments

• “It has been a lot of work, but students have learned a great deal. They seem to have been able to grasp the need to care for the hospitalized patient with an illness and their family.”

• “These written assignments certainly provide evidence that the students are thinking family in all that they read, do, and learn.”
Exemplar Three: Academic-Community Partnerships

What is ACT on Alzheimer’s

- 60+ Organizations
- 300+ Individuals

IMPACTS OF ALZHEIMER’S

- Budgetary
- Social
- Personal

$ $$

Voluntary, Collaborative
Academic-Community Partnership

- Hands-on data analysis
- Active identification of community interventions
- Consumer of research
Research Findings

• Lack of awareness of community resources
• Need for education about Alzheimer’s disease across community roles
• Barriers to seeking help in the community
Policy Brief Message

• What needs to be done
• Data to support need
• Relevant personal story
• Impact statement
Purple Angel

Improving Care for Dementia Patients: The Purple Angel Project

Dementia is an umbrella term that describes a wide range of symptoms associated with debility in memory or other thinking skills that impact a person’s capability to perform activities of daily living. At least two of the following mental functions must be significantly impaired to be considered dementia: memory, communication and language, ability to focus and pay attention, reasoning and judgment, and visual perception (Alzheimer’s Association, 2015a). We are senior nursing students at Minnesota State University, Mankato, who have encountered patients with dementia in different care settings. Our clinical experience has made it evident that patients with dementia receive less than deserved care, where health care providers have little training to safely handle a patient with dementia.

The purple angel wristband project aims to increase health care provider awareness of dementia patients through the use of purple angel logo on ID bracelets, a purple angel sign on every door of patients who have dementia, staff training on dementia, sitters to relieve family caregivers, and dementia screening at the time of admission. Implementing this program at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato would benefit healthcare providers as well as patients with dementia. If staff members are aware of the underlying diagnosis of dementia, misunderstandings between patient and healthcare providers will be greatly reduced. Precautions can be taken to minimize falls and wandering, and address signs of aggression, confusion, and sun-downing before the issue escalates (The Purple Angel, 2015).
Student Comments

• “...research projects= great experience to apply concepts”
• “[Data analysis] showed me the importance of family education to ensure each individual member has a deeper understanding of what is going on as well as how to communicate with them.”
• “Defining themes is similar to trying to evaluate how a patient is feeling. You have to combine [that with] how the patient acts to understand their ‘theme’.”
Exemplar Four: Families in Crisis

- Family dynamics in crisis
- Application of evidence
- Symposium
Family Crisis Capstone Project

- Heroin Addiction: Families in Crisis
- The Impact of Traumatic Brain Injury on Family Functioning
- The Effects of Terrorist Attacks on Families Living in Muslim Communities
- Attempted Suicide: Who is Really Suffering?
Families in Crisis Presentation
Interprofessional Faculty Comment

• “As a social worker, it was encouraging to hear that the nursing profession is training future nurses to be holistic in their healthcare. The presentations showed me that the social work principle of person-in-environment is an integral part of nursing. This allows me to believe that nurses and social workers will be able to work together to help all patients improve their well-being.”
Does it Matter?
Graduating Baccalaureate Students’ Attitudes Toward Family Nursing Practice

- Emerging: 45%
- Contesting: 9%
- Engaging: 8%
- Envisioning: 7%

Individual care ↔ Family care
Family care ↔ Societal health
Think...
Reflection

• What opportunities are there for you to teach family-focused nursing care?
• What are the barriers?
Questions and Discussion
References


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