Working Together to Treat Tobacco Dependence among Smokers with Serious Mental Illness

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Objectives

- Discuss the merits of tobacco education targeting the unique clinical needs of persons with mental illness
- Appraise the feasibility of an interprofessional collaborative approach to tobacco dependence treatment for persons with mental illness
- Formulate strategies for integrating IPE into health professions curricula
Background

- No decline in prevalence of tobacco use among persons with mental illness in past ten years despite decline in general population
- Clinicians are reluctant to engage in cessation counseling
- More contacts with HCP = increased odds of quitting
- IPE may prepare collaborative-practice ready clinicians
Purpose

• Develop an IPE experience for graduate health professional students
• Tackle a clinical problem using an interprofessional collaborative practice approach
• Assess the impact of the IPE experience on students’ perceived attitudes and perceptions about IP collaborative practice
• Assess the impact of the training on self-reported counseling abilities & perceived self-efficacy
Methods

• 1-group pre/posttest design using qualitative and quantitative methodology

• Purposive sample of health professional students
  • $N=36$ [$n=13$ nursing, $n=9$ pharmacy, and $n=14$ social work]

• 5 hours of tobacco education training
  • Online module
  • Face-to-face training
  • Simulation with a standardized patient & group debriefing*

*included students & faculty from nursing, social work, & pharmacy
Results

• Participants’ perceived self-efficacy and self-rated counseling abilities were significantly improved at post-test

• All students reported high perceived ability to provide interprofessional care and to work as part of an interprofessional team
  • No significant differences between types of students
Results

• “... coming from a social work background I don't know a lot about the medications. I liked being able to see that coming from the nursing discipline. I thought it was extremely helpful.”

• “Pharmacists are really knowledgeable. I guess I didn’t realize how much they can help.”

• “This is great, but I will never get to do this in practice....no one works interprofessionally, not really.”
Conclusions

• An interprofessional team approach appears to improve cessation counseling abilities and enhance self-efficacy

• Health professional students value the opportunity to learn about, and from, each other

• Larger studies are needed to validate the results of this pilot study
Conclusions

• Bridge gap between theory and practice (IP clinical sites)

• IPE may increase the likelihood of collaborative practice behaviors
Lessons Learned

• IPE requires more than placing students in the same classroom

• Can never have too much interaction between professions

• Explore profession-based subcultures & underlying values and beliefs
Lessons Learned

• Prepare faculty to face the challenges of IPE

• Establish relationships between faculty prior to experience

• Need a bridge between classroom & real-life experiences