Influence Through Action: STTI Members' Experiences in Haiti

Symposium Organizer: Jacqueline Cassagnol, MSN, RN, PMC
Presenters: Jacqueline Cassagnol, MSN, RN, PMC; Bibiane Sykes, MSN, RN; Margarett Alexandre, MS, RN
Purpose

- The purpose of this symposium is to share the experiences of STTI members' influence through their actions in Haiti.
Disclosure

- Presenters Names: Jacqueline Cassagnol, MSN, RN, PMC; Bibiane Sykes, MSN, RN; Margarett Alexandre, MS, RN
- Conflicts of Interest: None
- Organizations: Worldwide Community First Responder, Inc.; Haitian American Nurses Association; CUNY – York College
- Sponsorship/Commercial Support: None
Improving the Odds of Natural Disaster Survival in Haiti with First Responder Training

Jacqueline Cassagnol, MSN, RN, PMC
The purpose of this presentation is to share the experience of a Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) member advocating for and initiating a disaster preparedness project in Haiti.
Learning Objectives

- The learner will be able to describe the experience of an STTI member advocating for disaster preparedness in Haiti.
- The learner will be able to identify benefits of disaster preparedness in Haiti.
Introduction

- In January 2010, an earthquake struck Port-au-Prince, Haiti, that resulted in more than 200,000 deaths and more than one million people homeless.
- As in the Haiti earthquake of 2010, the successions of events in an emergency are not predictable.
Following any disaster, the first seventy-two hours are most crucial.

The STTI member advocated and initiated a disaster preparedness project at Faculté des Sciences Infirmières de Léogâne (FSIL).
Jacqueline Cassagnol

MSN, RN, PMC

For as long as she can remember, Jacqueline "Jackie" Cassagnol wanted to be a nurse. Her Aunt Joyce, who has been practicing nursing for more than 30 years, is likely the one to thank. Starting as a medical-surgical nurse and later becoming the head of her hospital’s clinics, Aunt Joyce always had stories to share of an exciting day in the hospital. Both Cassagnol and her brother pursued professions in the medical field. While he became an obstetrician and gynecologist, she became a nurse. Little did Aunt Joyce know how much of an inspiration she had become!

A young girl’s dream has since matured into a dynamic woman’s mission. Cassagnol is the founder and president of Worldwide Community First Responder, Inc. (WCFR): a charitable organization that strives “to prevent deaths worldwide through education and training.” Through WCFR, she develops educational and training programs, seeking to save lives by empowering individuals in their communities to serve as first responders when disaster strikes. Her focus is currently primarily in the United States and Haiti.

Cassagnol joined Sigma Theta Tau International because she was passionate about its mission to improve world health through knowledge. She has helped propel WCFR by utilizing The Circle, STTI’s professional online network, to communicate and connect with a global network of nurse leaders.

"Members can easily connect with each other through The Circle to voice their interest in getting more involved at the chapter level and globally," she says.

Inducted into STTI’s Zeta Omega-at-Large Chapter in November 2010, Cassagnol has since taken on various leadership roles within STTI. "The STTI membership experience is not complete without getting involved," she says. "My involvement in chapter, regional, and international-level activities has given me the opportunity to serve the nursing community in providing leadership and scholarship in practice, education, and research."

Cassagnol is currently a member of the STTI International Member Connect and Engagement Task Force, she’s the Region 14 communications chair, and she facilitates the Community Health Community and the Disaster Preparedness Community in The Circle.

If there is one thing that Cassagnol wants people to know about STTI, it’s that it supports its members. The honor society has encouraged partnerships with nonprofits such as WCFR through networking and promotion. For example, there was an article in Reflections on Nursing Leadership — STTI’s online member magazine — about WCFR titled “How do you prepare for chaos?” Furthermore, STTI featured WCFR in its 90th Anniversary Tribute video for work done in partnership with a nursing school in Haiti.

"WCFR would not have been what it is today without the support of STTI and its members," asserts Cassagnol. The honor society has helped strengthen her personally as a global nurse leader and scholar and professionally by bringing greater awareness to her nonprofit and its mission.
Faculté des Sciences Infirmières de Léogâne (FSIL)

- a nursing school located 20 miles west of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in the town of Léogâne that was affected by the earthquake.
The FSIL Disaster Preparedness project aimed to establish sustainable non-government policies and procedures for disasters at FSIL, through Worldwide Community First Responder (WCFR).
Worldwide Community First Responder (WCFR)

- a non-profit organization founded after the Haiti earthquake of 2010 with a mission to prevent deaths worldwide through education and training.
The project involved partnering with FSIL and was supported by a grant from Haitian American Nurses Association (HANA).

From 2012 to 2016, the STTI member traveled to Haiti with WCFR members once a year and trained FSIL faculty, staff and nursing students over a 7-day period.

The training program took place at the FSIL campus in Leogane, Haiti.
The FSIL Disaster Project consisted of:
- assessing the FSIL community’s risk and vulnerability for disasters;
- planning a community-based first response and first aid training program;
- training FSIL faculty, staff and nursing students in community-based first response and first aid;
- and developing a FSIL Disaster Preparedness Plan.
The goals of the FSIL Disaster Preparedness project were to:

- establish capabilities for protecting FSIL community from the effects of a disaster;
- respond effectively to the actual occurrence of a disaster at FSIL;
- provide first aid in the aftermath of a disaster within the FSIL community;
- plan and assure disaster preparedness at FSIL.
Rockland Nonprofit Teaches First Responder Training Worldwide

Tom Renner

Jackie Cassagnol of Spring Valley started Worldwide Community First Responder in 2011. The organization provides free training for first aid
The project engaged FSIL faculty, staff and students in making their community safer, more prepared, and more resilient when disasters occur.

After a recent disaster, the STTI member evaluated the effectiveness of the policy and procedure of FSIL Disaster Preparedness and the nursing students reported that they were able to practice what they had learned.

Additionally, a disaster preparedness course was developed and adopted in the FSIL curriculum.
JACKIE CASSAGNOL AND WCFR: THE SPIRIT OF NURSES’ WEEK

BY DYLАН SKRILOFF

Jackie Cassagnol’s life changed when Haiti was hit by a devastating earthquake in 2010.

Cassagnol, a longtime registered nurse currently working as a professor at Dominican College, was training Haitian civilians in first aid and emergency response following the killer quake and one young man told her, “If we knew this then, we could have saved so many lives.”

The words hit Cassagnol both in her heart and head and she realized that lack of knowledge of first aid was costing thousands of lives all over the world. Cassagnol came up with a philosophy; that every man and woman is potentially their own best first responder in an emergency. Cassagnol formed Worldwide Community First Responders, based in Spring Valley, and with the help of supporters and grant money her organization now teaches people all over the United States and Haiti how to react in emergency situations, as well as how to avoid them in the first place.

The group’s mission is “To prevent deaths worldwide through education and training” and their slogan is “Teaching people, saving lives.” Cassagnol is on a mission to leave the world a better place than she found it and that is refreshing. Cheers to Jackie and all the great nurses and medical professionals out there.

Learn more: wcfrwoldwide.org.
Jackie Cassagnol Named One of Rockland's Forty under 40 by the Rockland Economic Development Corporation

The nonprofit she founded seeks to help people change the world.

By Lanning Taliaferro (Patch Staff) - Updated October 16, 2014 1:06 pm ET

One of the “rising stars” of Rockland being honored by the Rockland Economic Development Corporation at tonight’s 15th annual Forty under 40 Reception is Jackie Cassagnol, RN, MSN, PMC, a nursing professor at Dominican College.

The Spring Valley resident is also the founder and President of Namet-based Worldwide Community First Responder, Inc.

She is also a founding member and immediate past vice president of
New Non-Profit in Town Lends Help Worldwide

Although Jackie Cassagnol has lived in Rockland for 17 years, her passion is international.

By Kim Tran (Patch Staff) - Updated December 11, 2013 10:01 pm ET


Worldwide Community First Responder, Jacqueline Cassagnol

by Paulina Kanburiyan

In a year when an Ebola outbreak in West Africa demonstrated the vulnerability of our public health system, as well as the selfless dedication of health care professionals, Jacqueline Cassagnol's growing notoriety is just what the doctor ordered. In October, Cassagnol RN, MSN, PMC, was named one of Rockland's “Forty under 40” by the Rockland Economic Development Corporation for her outstanding contributions in the medical field. A resident of Spring Valley and nursing professor at Dominican College, Cassagnol, is also the founder and President of Nanuet-based

Retrieve http://www.nyacknewsandviews.com/2014/12/wcfr-jacqueline-cassagnol/
Meet Our June 2017 Hudson Valley Hero: Jackie Cassagnol

The Spring Valley RN is the founder of a global emergency education and training organization.

BY ZARAH KAVARANA
Published: 06/01/2017

With most of her family practicing in the medical field, Spring Valley resident Jackie Cassagnol always envisioned herself in the industry. It was one person, however, who ultimately influenced her decision to become a nurse. Starting as a medical-surgical nurse, her aunt Joyce came home from the hospital each night with a thrilling story, or two, to share. She worked her way through the ranks over the course of 30 years, eventually becoming the head of the hospital’s clinics. Seeing the difference her aunt made in patients’ lives, Jackie set her sights on a career in nursing, not knowing how just many lives she would one day touch.
Conclusion

- Although this project was initiated at FSIL, it can be utilized for further interventions in establishing sustainable policies and procedures for disasters in Haiti and other parts of the world.
- Discussion and planning are underway to assist other nursing schools in initiating similar disaster preparedness projects in Haiti.
References

Responding to Hurricane Matthew: Leading in Hurricane Relief Operations in Haiti

Bibiane D. Sykes, MSN, RN
Purpose

- The purpose of this presentation is to share the experience of a Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) member volunteering in hurricane relief efforts after Hurricane Matthew in Haiti.
Learning Objectives

- The learner will be able to identify the implications of health conditions in Haiti.
- The learner will be able to recognize the benefits of participating in humanitarian efforts.
Located approximately 724 miles off the coast of Miami Florida.
Challenges facing Haiti

- Economic Instability
- Political Volatility
- Poor Governance
- Lack of Infrastructure
- Absence of Social Assistance
Challenges facing Haiti (cont.)

Natural disasters
  Repeated Torrential Rain
  Recurrent Floods
  Frequent Hurricanes
  Earthquakes
Hurricane Matthew

- Devastating hurricane
- Winds of 145 miles per hour
Hurricane Matthew

Thousands were dead.
More than 200,000 homes were destroyed.
1.4 million people were in need of humanitarian aid.
Hurricane Matthew

- Damaged Hospitals/Medical Clinics.
- Understaffed Medical Facilities
- Incapacity to cope
Hurricane Matthew

- Health & Cholera Outbreaks
- 1,351 new cases of cholera were reported by October 21 (UNICEF Haiti, 2016).
Medical Mission

Nursing leaders from the
Haitian American Nurses Association of
Rockland County, Inc.
(HANA)
Medical Mission

- Week Long Mission
- Distribution of Water/Food
- Established Medical Clinic
Medical Mission

Team of Professionals

Registered Nurses
Nurse Practitioners
Medical Doctors
Social Workers
Local Health Professionals
Medical Mission

Health Challenges

Cardiovascular Diseases

Infectious Diseases

Vectorborne
  (Malaria, Dengue, Chikungunya, Zika)

Food or Waterborne
  (Cholera, Hepatitis A & E, Typhoid Fever

HIV (AIDS)

Tuberculosis
Medical Mission

Great Need
Time Limit
Insufficient Supplies/Goods
Medical Mission

Making a difference in the lives of others
References

Integrating a Haiti Service Learning Component into a Nursing School Curriculum

Margarett Alexandre, MS, RN
The purpose of this presentation is to share the experience of a Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) member integrating a Haiti service learning component into a nursing school curriculum.
Learning Objectives

- The learner will be able to gain an enhanced understanding of the process of integrating international service learning in an online curriculum.
- The learner will be able to describe the preparations for travel in-country community service learning and lessons learned.
The goal of this project was to add an international service learning component to an online nursing program curriculum.
The component would provide RN–BSN nursing students the opportunity to come together and apply their didactic learning to a global field setting, while incorporating their clinical knowledge skills and attitudes with their understanding of cultural competence, social justice, social determinants of health and advocacy in the vulnerable and underserved populations of Haiti.
remains the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. After the earthquake of January 12, 2010, Haiti is in even greater need of healthcare support.
Student Learning Outcomes

- The STTI member developed the course in 2012 incorporating the student learning outcomes, which included the need:
  - to advocate for health policies that address local and global health issues,
  - to effectively communicate with diverse client populations and disciplines using a variety of strategies, and
  - to respect client's cultural beliefs and practices.
Travel to Haiti

- The course provides opportunities for students enrolled in the online community course to travel to Haiti with CUNY School of Professional Studies faculty.
- The STTI member traveled to Haiti with the first group of nursing students in 2013, and recently traveled with the sixth group to Haiti in January 2017.
Prior to their travel, the students were required to research Haiti’s history, culture, healthcare, social and economic issues. While in Haiti, pre and post conferences and lectures were held to assist the students in reflecting, synthesizing, and applying theory to clinical practice.
Activities

The students worked alongside healthcare professionals, at the Mission of Grace Medical Clinic, elementary school, orphanage and elderly home, to assess healthcare needs in the rural community of Carries, Haiti.
Results

- The students gained international service learning and community experience in the various specialty areas such as medical, pediatric, maternity services, child health, diabetes, cardiac, hypertension, geriatric and environmental health.

- They visited an orphanage and a geriatric home to gain further experience with these vulnerable populations.
References

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Thank you! Questions?