Enhancing Skills in Behavioral Health Management:
Margaret J. Reilly DNS, APRN, CNE
School of Professional Studies City University of NY

Abstract

With the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Medicaid has become the largest insurer in the U.S. Annual NYS Medicaid funding is approximately $50 billion. In NYS in 2013 there were 5.79 million Medicaid recipients. In 2014, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved New York’s $8.25 billion Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) waiver amendment. The goal of New York’s federal waiver, the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program, is to reduce avoidable hospital use by 25% through transforming the healthcare delivery system and also the way that health care is paid for. To receive funding NYS DSRIP required Medicaid providers and community-based organizations to form integrated delivery networks called Performing Provider Systems (PPSs). Behavioral Health (BH) is at the core of health care reform in NYS. In DSRIP, BH encompasses both mental health and substance use disorders. Medicaid members diagnosed with BH conditions account for 21% of Medicaid members but 60% of the total cost of care.

Integrating BH into primary care involves transforming the healthcare delivery system and will also require transforming the healthcare workforce. Yet access to care for patients with behavioral health issues has become more limited due to safety concerns especially for students in Nursing Programs. Exposing healthcare professionals to management of patients with behavioral health issues via Simulation can provide a safe environment to explore strategies. This project describes one innovative teaching approach utilizing a collaborative effort in Simulation with Nursing and Applied Theater programs to develop an educational strategy to promote development of knowledge, skills and attitudes in management of behavioral health issues.

Phase One – Spring 2017

Recruitment:
Two RN-BSN students with mental health practice experience were recruited. Two MS in Applied Theater students with practice experience as Standardized Patients were recruited.

Scenario Development:
The team of four students and the Program Directors for Nursing and Applied Theater collaborated to create a nuanced scenario focused on a mental health issue common to the elder population. Best practice assessment tools were identified.

Phase Two – Summer 2017

Filming:
Scenario rehearsal required students to learn about each other’s craft. A videographer was retained to record the Live Event.

Phase Three – Fall 2017-Spring 2018

Editing:
Identification of teachable moments in the video identified. Consultation with videographer done to create discussion opportunities.

Phase Four – Summer 2018

Pilot test planned with RN-BSN students enrolled in Community Nursing course.

CUNY SPS Team
Cami Dreyer RN, BSN, 2017
Melissa T. Hinds, RN, BSN, 2017
Shawn Fischer, CUNY SPS MA Applied Theatre, 2016
Nicole Serra CUNY SPS MA Applied Theatre, 2016
Margaret Reilly, DNS Program Director – Nursing
Chris Vine, MA, Program Director – Applied Theater
Dariun Robinson - videographer