The Evolution of An Interprofessional Approach to Combatting Childhood Obesity in an Urban Setting

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Why Interprofessional Collaboration

• The Institute of Medicine (now called the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, & Medicine) (IOM) published the report *To Err is Human* which highlighted the lack of safety in health care delivery in the US.

• As many as 44,000 patients die annually due to medical errors (IOM, 1999).
  • Why so many?
  • What factors contributed to these high numbers?
  • The number one problem was failure to communicate across the health care team.
Why Interprofessional Collaboration

• The IOM continued to study patient safety and quality care resulting in a report:
  • *Health Professions Education: A Bridge to Quality.*

• Five Competencies were identified as needed by all health professionals to combat errors:
  • Provide Patient-Centered Care
  • *Work in Interdisciplinary Teams*
  • Employ Evidence-Based Practice
  • Apply Quality Improvement
  • Utilize Informatics
Why Interprofessional Collaboration

• The Interprofessional Education Collaborative consisting of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, American Dental Education Association, Association of American Medical Colleges and Association of Schools of Public Health worked together to define interprofessional education and the associated competencies.

• This report identified four domains of competencies:
  • Values Interprofessional Practice
  • Roles/Responsibilities
  • Interprofessional Communication
  • Teams and Teamwork
SNACK: Smart Nutrition And Conditioning For Kids

Values & Interprofessional Practice:

- Health and Exercise Science (HES)
- Nursing
- TCNJ Undergraduate students
- Schools,
- Administration,
- PE teachers,
- School nurses
Roles/Responsibilities

- HES & HES students
- Nursing & Nursing students
- PE teachers
- School Nurses
- Classroom teachers
- Administration
Interprofessional Communication

- Understanding expertise in various fields
- Understanding discipline specific verbiage
Teams and Teamwork

• There is no “I” in **TEAM**!
• Collaboration
• Mutual respect
• Scheduling challenges
• Building bridges
Successes From the Original Journey

• Original funding $45,000 to TCNJ
• Current funding 1 million dollars to the Community Health Collaborative
• Benefits to children:
  • Increased physical activity
  • Improved nutrition knowledge & healthy food choices
  • Parental engagement
  • Community partnerships
  • Sustainability
Partnerships

- Trenton YMCA
- Boys & Girls Club of Trenton & Mercer County
- Wellness in the Schools (WITS)
- The Trenton Health Team
- Trenton School District
- George Street Playhouse
- New Jersey Partnership for Healthy Kids
- Isles
- Go Noodle
- The Food Trust
- The College of New Jersey (TCNJ)
work function silos are artifacts of a time when information was scarce and connections were few that time is coming to pass