



Group DNP Projects: Connecting Students, Service, and Community to Improve Health Outcomes

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INTRODUCTION

- Group DNP projects allow students to develop, implement, and evaluate large healthcare issues as a team.
- Each student must have distinct sections of the larger project that synergistically address healthcare deficits.
- Faculty guide students as individuals and as a group, facing the challenges of coordination and fostering individual scholarship.

BACKGROUND

- Combining DNP education and community service:
 - Two DNP faculty and four DNP students
 - Design and implement a healthcare program into a rural, non-profit rescue mission/homeless shelter that utilized the local emergency department for all healthcare
- C.A.R.E.S Program: Community Accessible Resources, Education, and Screening
- Four Components:
 - Health promotion and education
 - Secondary Prevention & Screening
 - Primary Care Services
 - Community Outreach & Sustainment

COLLABORATORS

- Raleigh Rescue Mission
- Johnston Area Mental Health Service
- Johnston County Health Department
- Johnston UNC Hospital Smithfield NC
- Johnston County Probation and Parole
- Johnston County Law Enforcement
- Local churches, businesses, and nonprofit organizations

OUTCOMES

- Community Fundraiser Participation—introduction of students to SRM team and community
- SRM C.A.R.E.S Manual—contained all policies & procedures for continuation, staff/resident educational handouts, healthcare screening form, & community resources
- VCANS grant recipient—mentored grant submission: purchased printer, health supplies, & medical equipment for clinic
- Developed health education and trained staff on key health issues including infection control, nutrition,
- Developed Healthcare Intake Screening: TB & communicable conditions, chronic disease, healthcare needs, substance abuse, mental health. Included actions for positive screenings
- Primary care services started—minor acute illnesses, medication refills pending linkage to local primary care with volunteer FNP
- Community groups connected with SRM—meals, home improvements, donations, volunteer time
- All 4 students completed their unique part of the project, graduated in May 2018



KEY LESSONS LEARNED

- Consistent Faculty-review as a whole and as individuals
- Let students lead and direct project
- Facilitate coordination between students—meet as a team
- Consider staff burden of community site
- Focus on sustainable actions-hardwiring improvements
- Leave tangible product: policies/procedures/resources
- Focus on community collaboration and resource utilization
- Clearly cover academic integrity and plagiarism—student papers are not a “group” product

RESOURCES

- The Doctor of Nursing Practice: Current Issues and Clarifying Recommendations. Report from the Task Force on the Implementation of the DNP August 2015

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