



Inter-professional Education: An Approach to Meeting Rural Health Care Needs



Sharon Souter, PhD, RN, CNE, Tracy L. Booth, MS.Ed., BSN, RN & Michele G. Hackney, MSN, RN, CNE
 University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, College of Nursing

Background

Rural health care challenges

- Availability, accessibility, and acceptability of health care services

Inter-professional Education

Communication and collaboration are core to providing patient-centered care

- The *Forum on the Future of Nursing: Acute Care* states "Academic institutions and health care organizations need to make a real commitment to inter-professional education that develops and sustains collaborative skills, both before and after licensure" (IOM, 2009, p. 37).
- The American Association of Colleges of Nursing Essentials of Baccalaureate Education for Professional Nursing Practice (2008), Essential VI, outlines expected outcomes related to inter-professional communication and collaboration for improving patient health outcomes.
- Inter-professional education occurs when "students from two or more professions learn about, from and with each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes" (WHO, 2010, p. 10).

Student Learning Objectives

- Complete a health history for individuals & families.
- Develop a plan of care acceptable to individuals & families.
- Demonstrate effective communication with the inter-professional health care team, individuals, & families.
- Provide health promotion and health teaching to individuals & families.



Rural Health Clinical Experience	
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing inter-professional relationships • Effective inter-professional communication • Health related needs of rural populations
Participants & Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First-year medical students • Senior, baccalaureate nursing students • Local family volunteers • School-based clinic
Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing: Mental Health & Community/Public Health • Medical: Rural Family Health • Timeframe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic year • Pair nursing student with medical student • Family assigned to student pair • Medical or nursing faculty provide guidance to student/family group
Schedule & Assignments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students, families, & faculty meet monthly at the school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students & faculty debrief after each meeting • Student assignments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windshield Survey • Comprehensive health history • Teaching Plan & health teaching presentation • Reflection paper • Identify related <i>Healthy People 2020</i> Topic/Objectives (nursing)
Student Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall positive feedback • Improved confidence in communication and in working with the inter-professional team • Recommend continuing experiences



Conclusions

Students gained heightened awareness

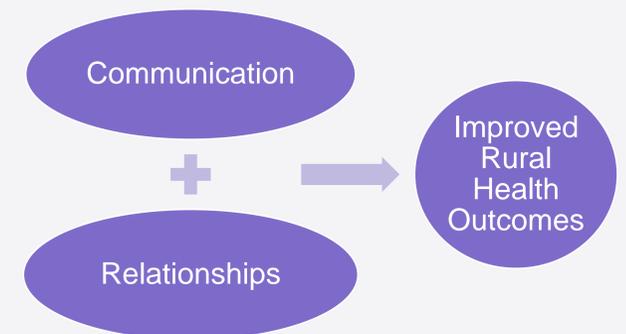
- Barriers to care
- Impact of socioeconomic status on health

Well-developed inter-professional education opportunities

- Provide innovative learning experiences
- Facilitate collaboration among students from different disciplines
- Provide students the opportunity to become aware of the importance of establishing good working relationships with the inter-professional team
- Emphasize the value of good communication

Families expressed

- Feeling a sense of purpose in facilitating student learning
- Knowledge gained from educational sessions



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