



Interprofessional Student-Run Free Clinic for the Homeless

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Abstract

The University of South Alabama Student-Run Free Clinic (SRFC) opened its doors March 29th, 2014 in Mobile, Alabama at 15Place, a homeless day shelter in downtown Mobile, Alabama. The clinic serves clients weekly by offering health and wellness screens, resource referrals, and health education. Students are made up of 9 different professional groups and work together in interprofessional teams to complete vital signs, medication reconciliation, physical examination, history gathering, and motivational interviewing. This paper describes the development of the SRFC from conception to implementation and how IPE has remained one of its core values and functions as a working model today. Successful practices, unintended consequences, and epic fails will be discussed. Practical information related to student training, logistics, and faculty oversight will be presented in order to assist in the development of other interprofessional SRFCs that are committed to collaborative care and limiting healthcare disparities in their respective communities.

Objective: Communicate the aims of students and faculty of the SRFC in using IPE for improving population health.

Clinic Information

Location: 15 Place, a homeless day shelter located in downtown Mobile, Alabama

Hours: Saturdays 8:30a – 11:30a

Services: Health and Wellness Checks, Preventative Health Care, Mental Health Services, Health Education, Referral Services, Advocacy

Professional Groups: Medicine, Nursing, Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology, Physician Assistant, Social Work, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy

Mission Statement:

The University of South Alabama SRFC is a student initiative with the purpose to enhance wellness in underserved and vulnerable populations of Mobile, Alabama. Through the SRFC, students across multiple health and social science disciplines will collaborate to empower patients through health education, the promotion of health literacy, and improving access to community health resources. The clinic aims to provide experiential learning for students to practice clinical and communication skills while improving sensitivity to vulnerable populations and promoting a life-long commitment to service.

Values:

Service learning
Patient-centered care
Cultural competency
Interprofessional collaboration



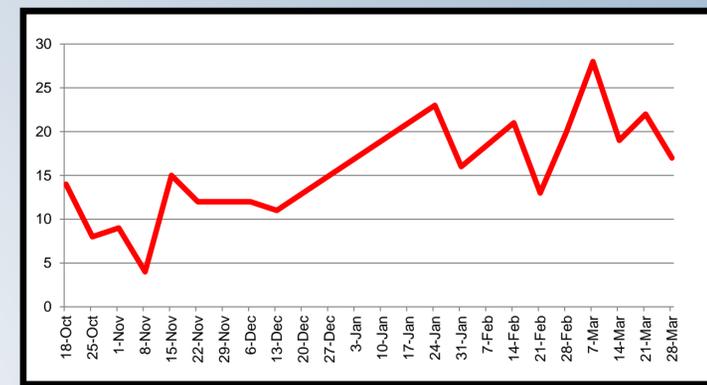
2015 Interprofessional Student Executive Leadership Board



Interprofessional Model



Number of Patient Visits Oct 2014 – Mar 2015



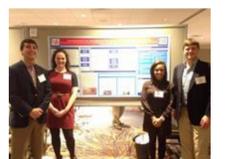
Research

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

This project consists of administering a validated survey to clients in order to determine the homeless population's perceived needs, how well the SRFC is responding to those needs, and how the clinic might expand in the future to meet a greater number of homeless needs more effectively. The data collection phase of this project began February 2015 and is being conducted by an interprofessional team of students.

STUDENT ATTITUDES TOWARD THE HOMELESS

One of the primary goals of the SRFC is to develop student sensitivity to vulnerable populations. Inspired by evidence in the medical education literature that the attitudes of medical students toward the homeless population become progressively more negative as they advance through their four years of training, the Student Research Committee is conducting a study Fall 2015 that will determine the impact, if any, of the student volunteer experience at the SRFC.



Explore

Student Interest
Early Efforts in IPE
Administrative Support
Funding
Community Partners



Design



Clinic Objectives
Clinic Scope of Practice
Logistics
Interprofessional Teams
Collaborative Care
Student Volunteers
Faculty Oversight
Expenses

Implement



Supplies and Facilities
Weekly Clinic
Curricular Impact
Patient Impact
Research Questions
Community Awareness
Student Leadership Involvement

Outlook



Interprofessional Student Leadership
Patient Tracking
Designing Research
Demonstrating Outcomes
Sustaining Faculty Support

Challenges

Maintaining interprofessional focus
Sustaining faculty support and oversight
Documentation and patient tracking

Lessons Learned

Earlier EHR installation and utilization
Improve information sharing as student leadership shifts
Enhance safety training and related operational issues

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