

# Fairleigh Dickinson University and Holy Name Medical Center Collaborative Project to Develop Nurse Preceptors

Co-investigators: Dr. Minerva Guttman, Director, FDU School of Nursing and Allied Health and Dr. Sheryl Slonim, VP for Patient Care Services HNMC

Clinical Coordinators: Susan Palmer, Instructor FDU and Jean Leone, Executive Director HNMC Home Care, Hospice and Palliative Services

# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- The FDU School of Nursing and Holy Name Medical Center (HNMC) have a long standing formal/informal collaborative relationship (research days, magnet certification/recertification, CCNE accreditation, advisory board, onsite RN to BSN, MSN programs and clinical placement of students).
- Dr. Guttman, Director FDU School of Nursing approached Dr. Slonim, VP for Patient Care Services with the call for proposals for innovative academic and practice partnerships and both agreed to respond to the call.
- The project called for HNMC nurses with the clinical expertise to participate in the education of FDU nursing students while alleviating the nursing faculty shortage and improving the quality of nursing education.

# GOALS OF THE PROJECT

- To develop and test an innovative model of academic-practice partnership in the community setting (Home Care, Hospice and Palliative Care)
- To increase faculty capacity in teaching undergraduate nursing students
- To improve the clinical experience for undergraduate nursing students

# CHALLENGES OF THE PROJECT

- Initially some of the preceptors were hesitant to allow students to perform more complex procedures.
- One home hospice preceptor was unable to complete the project due to illness. The student was assigned to another preceptor.
- Change of administrative structure at HNMC Home care, Hospice and Palliative care units.

# OUTCOMES

- Academic and Clinical partnership is essential in educating the nursing students. The clinical expertise of the staff nurses serving as preceptors is very effective in meeting the course objectives.
- The nurses in the community setting used in this project are interested in participating in the education of nursing students. As shown in the evaluation by the preceptors, they are willing to serve as preceptors again.
- Positive student evaluations.
- Reduced the number of clinical faculty and reduced workload for faculty.
- Students had a wider variety of patients and experiences. They commented on the increase in their self-confidence with patient care.
- Project is scalable and replicable
- Recommendation: To replicate the model in own system.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- More time for the workshop to prepare preceptors.
- The agency needs to have a larger number of preceptors to accommodate the number of students and experiences.
- Students need an orientation of the preceptor role before the experience.
- Add physical therapy home care to appreciate interdisciplinary collaboration.

# SUSTAINABILITY

- The collaborative project has continued in the Spring 2013 semester and there are plans to continue beyond grant funding.
- Grant proposals will be submitted to other private foundations and HRSA . These agencies are active in finding solutions to the nursing and nursing faculty shortage and this model could be one answer to these problems.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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