Evidence-based Public Health Practice through Undergraduate Students, Regional Offices, and Local Health Agencies

Jessica Miller and Katie Lochen, Student Nurses, Susan D. Moch, PhD, RN, UW-Eau Claire
Pamela Guthman, BSN, RN, BC, Karen Morris, BSN, RN, Timothy Ringhand, MPH, RN, and Lieske Giese, MSPH, RN,
Division of Public Health/Western Region Office

Description

Goal: Describe a university-practice collaboration for evidence-based practice (EBP) in a public health setting to identify effective means for disseminating best practice and foster student interest in public health.

An evidence-based process was utilized for current and emerging public health issues by teaching EBP processes to public health nurses and having students provide literature summaries of evidence-based findings to public health nurses (PHNs).

Steps of the Collaboration Process

- Completed a PHN Supervisor Needs Assessment and identified a need for access to EBP sources
- Developed adjunct positions for public health nurses to obtain library access
- Provided classes in EBP processes through the university
- Developed a process for PHNs to get information through students with input from public health administrators and PHN consultants
- Obtained literature review requests from public health staff
- Hired students for project involvement
- Conducted literature reviews

Background

- Previous university-public health practice collaboration success through grant funded project which included a liaison staff member, provided the framework for this project
- Knowledge from previous university-practice collaboration experiences with agencies and undergraduate students was utilized
- Literature reviews established the need for Evidence-based practice (EBP) for Public Health Nurses (PHNs)

Literature Reviews

- Informatics in public health
- Pharmaceutical waste
- Lymphedema management
- Text messaging and protected health information
- Shared public health services
- Prenatal care coordination
- Effects of marijuana use during pregnancy
- Community-based interventions for chlamydia

Outcomes

- Student knowledge about PHN practice
- Appreciation of student role and resources
- Evidence-based practice summaries
- Grant funding obtained
- Prenatal care coordination: Marijuana effects educational tool

Future Evaluation Plan

- Research students are completing a knowledge/attitude survey on evidence-based practice
- Research assistants participation in focus groups related to EBP learning and quality of experiences
- Agency staff will participate in focus groups to evaluate the process

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