

Nurse Practitioners Providing Healthcare for the Uninsured and Homeless

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Overview:

MSU Care, a collaborative project between the Nursing Department at the University and the Kitchen Medical Clinic, is a free clinic for the uninsured and homeless that is run by the nurse practitioner faculty at the University. MSU Care has provided care for the city's underserved for over 2 years (Grant Funded 2010-2014). In addition to providing care to the homeless and those in poverty, FNP students learn how to address and reduce health disparities and are exposed to the challenging situations that arise from caring for patients with little to no resources, and complex medical and psychiatric problems. This site also serves as a faculty practice site for MSU FNP faculty.

MSU Care Goals:

- Increase primary care access to the underserved;
- Enhance FNP education to include healthcare of the underserved and healthcare disparities;
- Increase # of clinical sites for the FNP educational program;
- Attract practicing nurse practitioners to the faculty role

Building Collaborations

History of Kitchen Medical Clinic

The Kitchen Medical Clinic has been providing care to the underserved of the Ozarks since 1983 through the work of volunteer physicians, nurses and staff.

History of University Nursing Department FNP Program
The Family Nurse Practitioner program has been educating nurses since 1996. Since that time there have been over 100 graduates who serve Southeast Missouri, working mainly in rural and underserved areas.

Building Successful Collaboration for the Underserved

Because the mission of the Kitchen Medical Clinic and the MSU Department of Nursing are similar, a collaborative effort was an easy fit.

MSU Care

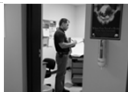
Clinic Operations
The clinic is open 8-5 Monday-Thursday for new and existing patients. 4 FNP faculty provide healthcare services for those without insurance and who meet low income criteria.

Services Provided

MSU Care is a primary care clinic providing preventive, acute and chronic health care.

Patients Served

Currently in Springfield, MO there are a shortage of providers willing to care for patients for free. The Kitchen Clinic and MSU Care is the only 100% free medical clinic.



MSU CARE



Educating Students

Health and Healthcare Disparity Education

All FNP students have a course dedicated to health and healthcare disparities.

NP Faculty Role at MSU Care

NP Faculty serve as primary care providers and preceptors at MSU Care.

NP Student Role at MSU Care

All MSU FNP students have a clinical rotation at MSU Care. Student satisfaction with the clinical experiences is high.

Outcomes

More taking jobs with underserved populations. Students more comfortable with complex patients.

Lessons Learned

Starting a Clinic:
Start-up took longer than expected because of plumbing and construction issues.

Challenges

Finding and retaining NP faculty. In the end was more effective to see visiting faculty rather than hire from the outside.

Rewards

Faculty and students have found the MSU Care clinic to be personally and professionally rewarding.

For further information
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