

The Synthesis of DNP Essentials into FNP Clinical Practice: A Case Demonstration Project

Mary Benbenek Ph. D., APRN., FNP-BC, CPNP



Purpose

The purpose of this project was to: Engage FNP DNP students to synthesize DNP core essentials into clinical practice through the development of a clinical case demonstration project

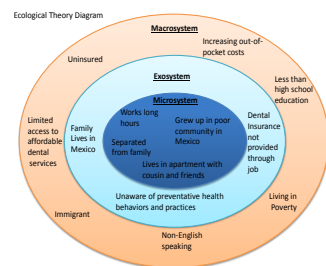
Background

FNP DNP students complete many of their core DNP courses prior to beginning the clinical program. As a result, it is sometimes difficult for students to understand how to integrate DNP core essentials into their clinical practice.

Significance

The DNP stimulates FNP students to better understand and appreciate the complex factors affecting the health of individuals and populations. This project requires students to analyze elements that contribute to patient/family health outcomes and to utilize that knowledge to develop a collaborative patient-centered care plan and to identify ways the FNP DNP can effect health system and policy change.

Examples of Student Work

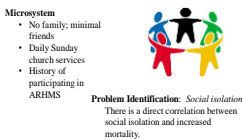


Project Aims

Utilizing DNP essentials and FNP competencies, this project aimed to stimulate students to:

- Utilize a holistic framework in providing patient/family care
- Analyze the unique enablers and barriers to care for the individual patient/family
- Promote patient/family-centered health by developing an interprofessional evidence-based plan of care that addresses broad determinants of health
- Evaluate existing social, health care and health system policies that may affect patient/family health
- Assume a leadership role in collaborating with a multidisciplinary team to promote health at the individual and population levels

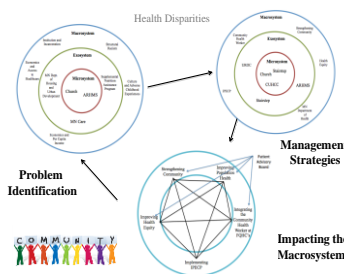
Health Disparities: Identifying the Patient's Micro, Exo, and Macrosystems



Health Disparities: Management Strategies



Health Disparities: Management Strategies



Method

- Students chose a patient from clinical practice who demonstrated complex needs relative to medical, social, cultural factors, health care access issues, vulnerability, and/or health disparities and developed a de-identified clinical case study
- Students analyzed the case to determine enablers and barriers affecting health outcomes for the individual patient inclusive of medical, social and political determinants of health.
- Students designed a conceptual model utilizing a theoretical framework to demonstrate the relationship between factors affecting health
- Students designed an evidence-based interdisciplinary patient/family-centered health promotion plan that addressed the enablers and barriers to health in the context of the unique patient, family and the existing health care system
- Students offered broad political and social patient advocacy solutions to promote health

Student comments:

"I think this was an excellent course. The material is absolutely necessary to our role"
 "This project made it all come together."

Conclusions

This project required FNP DNP students to apply DNP essentials to an individual clinical case to effectively link theory and scientific foundation with the actual delivery of care. Key student learning focused on understanding and appreciation of:

- Social Determinants of Health
- Case Management
- Health and Public Service Resources
- System Gaps
- FNP Advocacy Role
- Health Promotion

Students were required to investigate existing health system and public services and to explore their role in effecting health delivery change to promote health for patients and populations.

Future Directions

In the project highlighted here, students were directed to use the Urie Bronfenbrenner Ecological Systems Theory to design their conceptual map, but the project could be left open for students to utilize a theoretical foundation of their choice.

Resources

NONPF Family Across the Lifespan Competencies
 ANCC DNP Essentials

Acknowledgements

Tracy Utech, Child Family Coop Support Staff
 Christa Cerra, RN, FNP DNP student; Nicole Pedersen Akhigbar RN, FNP DNP student