



Nurses to Schools Corps: An Innovative Pilot Community Partnership for Community Health Clinical Placements in an RN to BSN Program

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Objectives:

- Establish innovative collaborative community health clinical placements for RN to BSN students.
- Measure student absenteeism over a 5-year pilot period to determine impact of Nurses to School Corps in the selected middle schools.
- Measure student suspension rates over a 5-year pilot period to determine impact of Nurses to School Corps in the selected middle schools.

Background

- Community health clinicals traditionally involve placing students in either public sector community health agencies and/or school nurse settings.
- Societal changes have catalyzed increasing awareness and focus on the need to build resiliency skills in youth impacted by Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES.)
- In addition, a growing competitive marketplace in terms of access to clinical sites and agencies due to the increase of nursing programs needing community health clinical sites has created a need for innovative solutions to enhance opportunities for community health clinical placements beyond the parameters of traditional public health agency and/or school nurse placements.

Program Development

- An innovative pilot for clinical placements known as the *Nurses to Schools Corps*. Currently Samuel Merritt University is collaborating with two different middle schools within two different school districts. In the Samuel Merritt RN to BSN Nursing Program, students are placed in low –academic performing schools with economically disadvantaged student populations known to be highly impacted by adverse childhood experiences (ACES).
- The RN to BSN program provides the clinical placement to fulfill the 90 hours of community health clinical internship required to apply for a Public Health Nurse (PHN) certificate by the State of California Board of Registered Nursing.
- The RN to BSN Community Health program partners with middle schools in ways that promote innovative roles for community nurses.

Goals

- Long-term impact of the collaboration will hopefully lead to less student absenteeism over a 5-year period, increased presentism, reduction in the numbers of students expelled due to behavioral problems, and fostering more compassionate school environments.

Methods

The RN to BSN students perform the following tasks as part of their clinical rotations at specially selected and contracted ACES impacted schools:

- Running the school health club
- Building a school Wellness Room based on the Caritas™ Processes of Jean Watson.
- Conducting mind, body, spirit (MBS) workshops and activities for middle school students and staff.
- Panning, designing, and implementing lunch and after school wellness-promoting activities based on community needs assessment data.

References

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