

Background

Community health nursing clinical placements have become increasingly challenging for nursing schools to locate. Even when the clinical delivery model includes onsite faculty leading clinical students, finding agencies and populations to case manage is difficult.

Objective

The goal of this best teaching practice was to partner with the local Meals on Wheels program and provide eligibility reassessment home visits to recipients of the food program.

Methods

Process of Collaboration with the Department of Aging & Veterans Services (Meals on Wheels under this division):

- Initial meeting with Department of Aging & Veterans Services
- Joint meeting with Dept of Aging and Meals on Wheels
- Discussion with programs regarding student roles and capabilities
- Contract confirmed between Dept of Aging & University
- Faculty orientation to Meals on Wheels home visits
- Creation of student simulation related to Meals on Wheels reassessment paperwork & home visits

Results

Win-Win Partnership

- ❖ Meals on Wheels workload decreased
- ❖ Students obtained experience conducting home visits and case managing elder families

Student Contribution Focus

- ❖ Medication reconciliation
- ❖ Cognitive impairment screenings
- ❖ Depression screenings
- ❖ Injury prevention
- ❖ Chronic disease management
- ❖ Client education
- ❖ Resource linking

Lessons Learned

There is potential for faculty-led community health clinical groups to base out of a variety of existing programs. Nursing students are able to both support and extend services provided by the programs to better serve our communities. Other partnerships could include collaborating with programs such as multipurpose senior services programs (MSSP), public health lead programs, and acute care discharge planning departments.

