

Using a Faculty Practice to Create a Culture of Health in West Baltimore

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This presentation will discuss the use of a faculty practice to create a culture of health in an area facing health disparities. The University of Maryland School of Nursing (UMSON) has had a partnership with Paul's Place, an agency serving homeless and low-income individuals in West Baltimore, for over 30 years. The relationship between these two organizations grew to a formal partnership eight years ago through a 40% faculty practice agreement. The UMSON faculty member serves as the Director of Health and Wellness for Paul's Place. This faculty member is on site at Paul's Place two days each week year-round, securing community health and wellness services are sustained while students are on break. UMSON students are on site two to four days a week during the fall and spring semesters. This faculty practice meets the education and research mission of the UMSON and ultimately creates a culture of health in an underserved area. Education: This faculty practice provides real world interprofessional service learning for approximately 75 University of Maryland Baltimore (UMB) students each year. The practice site hosts undergraduate and graduate nursing students (BSN, RN-BSN, and MS Clinical Nurse Leaders) along with social work, medicine, pharmacy, and public health students to provide vital health promotion programming for the community and to meet clinical/service learning requirements. One example of a student intervention is the nurses' clinic, which aims to link residents with resources, services, and healthcare providers to best manage their health as well as providing clinical case management, health education, basic screening, first aid, triage assessments and interventions for health behavior change. In this clinic nursing students work with students from various disciplines across UMB, such as social work, medicine, and physical therapy to help meet the program's mission. Research: The faculty practice also allows the faculty member to conduct research with a population that is historically hard to recruit and not typically offered health promotion interventions. The faculty member is actively involved in two funded research grants. She is a co-investigator of a National Institutes of Health R56 grant to test the efficacy of an intervention designed to decrease impulsivity and improve health outcomes for adult patients at Paul's Place. On the other grant, the faculty member is a co-principal investigator for a Maryland State grant that aims to test a novel intervention with peer recovery advocates in an attempt to link Paul's Place patients to substance abuse treatment. Culture of Health: The faculty practice has demonstrated an impact on health outcomes: 67% of smokers reported a decrease in tobacco use 70% of individuals without a medical home were connected to a primary care provider, and 75% of individuals needing non-emergent care avoided the emergency room due to the care they received in the clinic. In summary, this presentation will discuss the reciprocal relationship with a community organization and an anchor institution by providing specific details on the history of the relationship, as well as interventions, and outcomes for various programs.