



MARYLAND ACTION COALITION

Creating a Healthier Maryland

FUTURE OF NURSING™ CAMPAIGN FOR ACTION

MNWC and the COVID-19 Response

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Abstract

When the response to the COVID-19 pandemic included the closure of clinical experiences in March 2020, Maryland schools of nursing made rapid adjustments to complete clinical requirements for the spring semester. However, the uncertainty of when and how students would be able to return to the clinical settings created anxiety for both the schools and practice settings. The directors of the Maryland Nursing Workforce Center and the Nurse Residency Collaborative determined that a statewide summit meeting would be a mechanism to bring the key stakeholders to the table to develop a plan forward. The first statewide meeting took place in May 2020 and was well attended. A task force was formed to address the identified issues related to returning students to the clinical settings. Guidelines were developed and vetted with key stakeholders and presented to all schools and hospital practice settings. The guidelines were used to develop return to clinicals for students in the fall 2020 semester. Follow-up meetings in October and November 2020 highlighted where the guidelines worked and issues that needed further work. As an outgrowth of these statewide summit meetings, several other areas of concern were addressed and there is ongoing work to find consensus-driven solutions.

This presentation will briefly discuss the summit process, the guidelines, implementation challenges, just-in-time solutions, and ongoing work of the statewide group.