

Training Future Rural Health Practitioners through Inter-disciplinary Poverty Simulation

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Background

- The Maryland State Office of Rural Health classify 18 of its 24 jurisdiction at rural including Allegany and Garrett counties (Seitz, n.d).
- This offers unique health care challenges that include lack of access to care, transportation and other resources.
- Included in Frostburg State University's Nurse Practitioner goals and objectives is to cultivate graduate nursing education options to alleviate primary and psychiatric mental health provider shortage in rural, medically underserved regions across the state of Maryland.
- Simulation is an active teaching/learning strategy that allows students to experience scenarios that require critical thinking and offers reflective opportunities on lived experiences.
- A poverty simulation is held as part of an experiential inter-disciplinary intensive with the Nurse Practitioner, Athletic Training, and Physician Assistant students.

Objectives

Upon completion readers will be able to...

1. Identify the key stakeholders and participants in a Poverty Simulation.
2. Describe how an inter-disciplinary simulation can be integrated into different curriculum.
3. Discuss how various programs evaluate and assess the simulation-based program specific goals.

Methods

Participants (80 Total)

- Nursing (Graduate and Undergraduate)
- Physician Assistant
- Athletic Training
- Health Sciences
- Social Work
- Psychology

Schedule

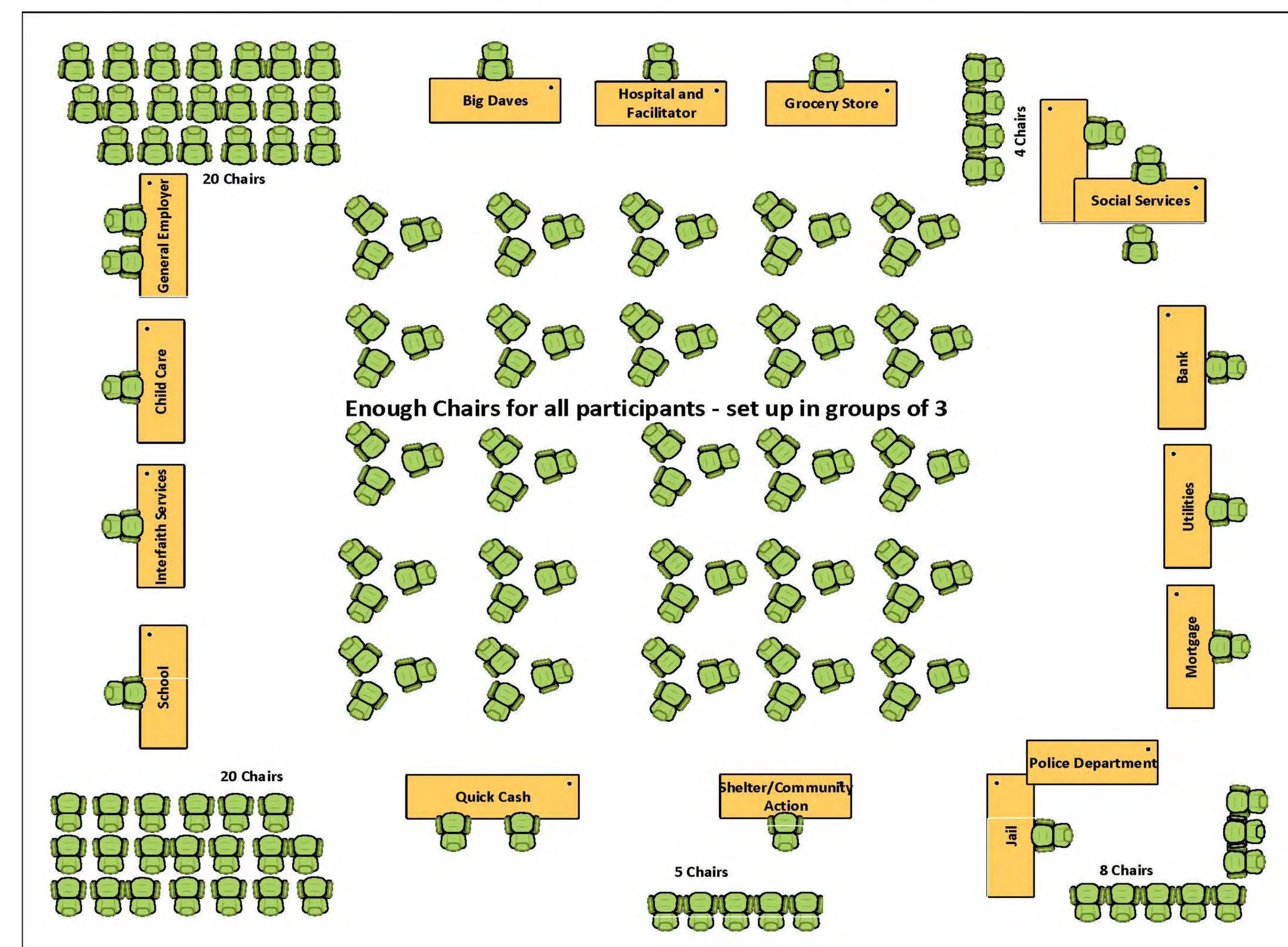
- Introduction to Poverty in Rural Communities
- Students are placed in family units and given an identity, budget, and varying resources.
- 4 Simulation sessions (15 min each) representing 1 week in the life of a low-income family.
- Debrief session (1 hour)

Simulation Setting

The simulation is in one large banquet room. Family groups are in the middle and various community resources are on the perimeter of the room. Resources include school, hospital, social services, bank, employer, utility company, grocery store, church, jail, homeless shelter, pawn shop, quick cash, daycare. Families must use transportation passes to leave their home and travel to a community site, employment, and school. All families must purchase food, and attempt to pay bills or they are evicted from their home, represented by their chairs in the center being removed.

Figures

Poverty Simulation Layout



Discussion

Purpose: The goal of this interdisciplinary simulation event is to provide future health care providers the opportunity to learn about poverty and how families navigate everyday challenges while living in poverty. This simulation helps students identify and engage in community resources and think about their future patients' needs and challenges from a holistic perspective.

Curriculum & Assessment: Since the simulation includes various undergraduate and graduate level programs each program incorporates the simulation into their curriculum differently. In nursing the simulation is reflected on throughout the semester as student work through different case studies, community assessments, and discussions.

Assessment: Each program involved assesses the student experience or participation differently. For example, the physician assistant program requires students to complete a video reflection after the simulation that links to the student learning outcomes.

Results



Conclusions

The partnership with Allegany County Bridges to Opportunity provides students a valuable networking opportunity to connect with local community leaders and learn about rural community resources.

The inter-professional simulation environment also allows students to learn from different disciplines and see the importance of team collaboration for their future practice.

References

Seitz, S. (n.d.) Maryland State Office of Rural Health.
<https://health.maryland.gov/pophealth/Pages/Rural-health.aspx>

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