Background

- Advanced Practice Providers (APP) require continuing education (CE) for professional growth, quality care, and certification renewal.
- It is often difficult to obtain the CEs necessary for safe, current, efficient, and high-quality practice, due to:
  - Time constraints
  - Too busy to leave the bedside
  - Unable to attend on a day off
  - Financial constraints
  - Institutions provide limited funding for CE
  - Off-site conferences are a financial burden
- A few studies have shown postgraduate NP/PA training:
  - Increased knowledge, competence, and confidence
  - Decreased time to unsupervised practice
  - Decreased length of time to maximum productivity
  - Improved retention rates

(Objective)

- To implement an online platform for providing cost-effective, efficient delivery of continuing education for APPs.

(Aim/Goal)

- Increased access to continuing education for APPs
- Improved APPs provider competence
  - Improved patient outcomes
  - Increased patient satisfaction
  - Improved APPs job satisfaction
  - Increase APP retention
- Long-term goal: Expand delivery of educational modules to all APPs in the state of Maryland

Implementation

- Proposed a collaborative effort between University of Maryland School of Nursing and University of Maryland Medical Center
  - University of Maryland School of Nursing
    - Has a formal educational structure in place to provide the knowledge, skills, and aptitude for an advanced practice degree.
    - Has the IT support necessary to develop and implement online modules.
    - ANCC Accredited provider of CE
  - University of Maryland Medical Center
    - A large academic center that employs about 200 APPs
    - New APPs are required to meet certain orientation competencies which can be delivered through online modules
- Met with key stakeholders from both institutions
  - Dr. Carmel McComiskey: Director of APPs at UMMC
  - Dr. Patricia Franklin: Professional Education Director at UMSON
  - Mr. Matt Rietschel: IT Director at UMSON

Next Steps

- Topic Development
  - Develop module content for first topic – Care of the Liver Transplant Patient
- Follow-up meetings
  - Mr. Matt Rietschel to discuss first module implementing
  - Dr Patricia Franklin to discuss the process by which APPs will obtain CEs
- Sustainability
  - Continue to collaborate as a team and work on the operationalization of this project, first topic, and future topic.
  - Work with our mentors to submit an NSPII grant proposal (Fall of 2017)
  - Research and publish outcome results

A project such as this is a huge undertaking requiring significant planning, preparation and dedication. Making connections with key stakeholders and carefully planning prior to implementation is required to make the program a success. We will continue to work closely with each other, our mentors, and other project stakeholders to implement the program.

References


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