IDD FELLOWSHIP FOR NURSE PRACTITIONERS IN NC

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LEND PROJECT 2016
Developing an Intellectual and Developmental Disability Specific Curriculum for North Carolina Nurse Practitioners

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Background

- NC-LEND is invested in the exploration of systemic approaches to decrease the health disparities of persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD).
- NC-LEND and CIDD are committed to empowering Nurse Practitioners (NP) with advanced leadership skills and specialized training in direct patient care to persons with IDD.
- Between 2012 and 2019 the demand for medical care in N.C. will increase by 14.4%.
- Forty years of research evaluating patient outcomes reveals NPs consistently provide high-quality safe care, generate revenue, reduce lengthy stays, and standardize the quality of patient care.
- NP’s can help fill the void in the current healthcare shortage and provide high-quality care to persons with IDD.

Methods

- Dual Web Based Qualtrics Surveys of:
  - NPs with NC Licenses
- Over 6000 recipients
- North Carolina Universities with Nurse Practitioner programs of study.
- 10 Total NC NP Programs
- NPs were asked to rate adequacy of their training and interest in additional training related to meeting the healthcare needs of persons with IDD.
- NC NP University Program Faculty were asked to comment on level of IDD related subject matter included in their NP curriculum.

Needs Assessment

Figure 1. Description of primary practice setting: n=350

Figure 2. How well has your basic and continuing NP education prepared you to care for persons with IDD? n=350

Figure 3. NC NP willingness to spend time away from work for further education on IDD health. n=350

Figure 4. What would be an appropriate incentive for you to consider additional training? n=350

Preliminary Needs Assessment Results

Figure 5. NC NP Program Response: Would you be interested in providing additional didactic IDD curriculum content? 4/10 programs as of 7/2015

Discussion

- Preliminary needs assessment suggests there is lack of satisfaction with current level of IDD training in NP programs in North Carolina.
- NPs indicate interest in post graduate training in IDD health.
- NP programs indicate interest in increasing IDD training content.
- CIDD/NC-LEND is poised to aid NC NP programs to increase IDD content.
- CIDD/NC-LEND is well positioned to develop a post graduate NP focused IDD health mini-fellowship.
- We are exploring funding opportunities with the NC Developmental Disabilities Council and multiple foundations.

References

WHY NURSE PRACTITIONERS?

• With the inception of the Affordable Care Act, more Americans are now covered by insurance.

• The demand for medical care is increasing significantly, especially with the goal of having a medical home for each individual.

• Primary care providers are overwhelmed by this increase and nurse practitioners can fill in the gaps where primary care is lacking as advanced and skilled practitioners.
SO WHAT DID WE DO?

- Survey results showed a strong interest in North Carolina from universities and practicing NPs.
- The research team developed a proposed plan to construct a year-long fellowship to best train NPs that are currently practicing and have an interest in IDD that included:
  - The didactic curriculum already used for LEND trainees and fellows.
  - Different clinical sites throughout NC to provide different avenues to train NPs (CIDDD, Murdoch, CDSA, Developmental Pediatricians, etc.)
But doing that costs money, right?

Mission statement is to “promote the establishment of comprehensive health care for adults with developmental disabilities designed to address their unique and fundamental needs.”

Most of my work for the LEND project was writing portions of the grant application to best portray the proposed plan from the research team.
Experience

- First time on a research team: excellent experience working together, meeting deadlines.
- First time grant writing: gathered resources from the Sakai site from Dr. Dichter at the CIDD
- Have always been “scared” of research, but this helped me realize what my strengths are as a researcher.
- Realizing the impact of what this research project could do for NPs and ultimately, individuals with IDD in North Carolina.
- Potential for a national model.
Where are we now in the process?

- The research team successfully completed the grant application and received feedback that we should apply again this April 2016.
- Goal is to reformulate for a 1 year proposal, to “trial run” the fellowship with a very small sample of interested NPs in NC to work out any obvious deficits or changes to the proposed plan.
- Once the year long trial is complete, we will then again apply for bridge funding to continue the fellowship program.
References