

Systems-Focused Population-Based Public Health Nursing: Addressing Pandemic Flu

Derryl Block, PhD, MPH, RN

Sharon Cross, RN, MSPH

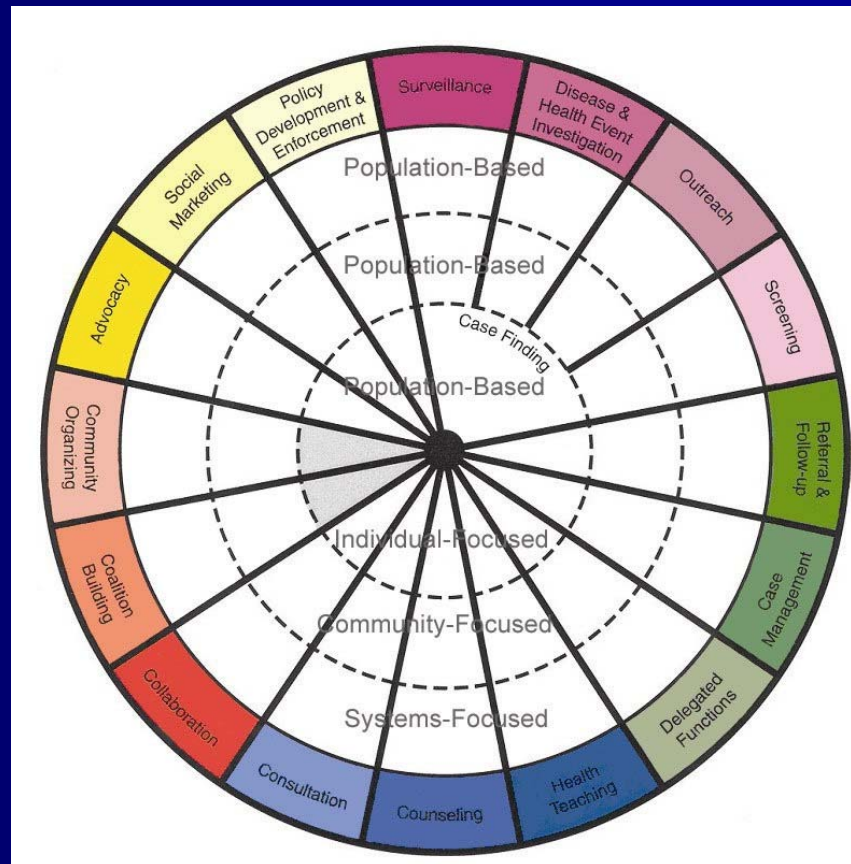
Sue Strohschein, MS, RN

Linda Olson Keller, MS, RN

LaVohn Josten, PhD, RN

Dawn Reckinger, PhD, MPH

Minnesota Public Health Intervention Wheel



Systems Focused Practice

changes organizations, policies, laws,
and power structures

Systems Focused Practice

- Essential component of population focused public health nursing (PHN) practice (Quad Council, 2004)
- Focus with lowest self-rated competency of PHNs (Cross et al., 2006)
- Perceived lack of organizational or administrative support (Oppewal et al., 2006)
- Not well described in literature

PHN Competency Instrument

- Covers all aspects of PHN population based practice
- Valid and reliable
- Used as framework for identifying steps in systems focused practice

<http://www.nursing.umn.edu/CCFHPR/Resources/Competencies/home.html> (Cross et al., 2006)

Example

Preparing for pandemic flu in a rural county: Wald County

Systems-Focused Assessment and Problem Identification

- Rural county with large influx of summer vacationers
- 30% uninsured
- 10% home bound elderly
- No quarantine law
- Collaboration with community leaders and stakeholders

Systems Focused Planning

- Health education (hand washing, home supplies, when to seek care)
- Quarantine law modification
- Communication with and care of vulnerable populations (homebound and ill)
- Incident command structure
- Call center
- Triage model
- Staffing contingencies
- Risk communication
- Vaccine and other drug distribution
- Maintaining order/security
- Continuity of government
- Personal protection (vaccines, masks)
- Social distancing

Systems Focused Evaluation

- Limited ☺
- Table top exercise
- Mass vaccination exercise
- Debriefing

Impact of Systems Focused PHN

- Increased emphasis
- Increased planning
- Increased competence?

For more information

Derryl Block, Professor and Chair
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
2420 Nicolet Drive
Green Bay, WI 54313
blockd@uwgb.edu