

Creating Culturally Competent Midwives for Rural Virginia

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*Excellence
Through
Innovation*

Goals of Program

- To extend the Midwifery program at Shenandoah University to rural areas through creative programs and collaboration with Old Dominion University's Distance Education program
- To improve the cultural competency of midwifery students using Standardized Patients

History

- This program focuses on the Healthy People 2010 goal to “Eliminate Health Disparities”



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Background

- There is a lack of quality maternal care in Rural Virginia
- Infant mortality rate is as high as 44/1,000 births in some of the Virginia MUA's
- Obstetric care in rural areas is unraveling



Addressing Problem with Collaboration

- Shenandoah University (SU) and Old Dominion University (ODU) worked collaboratively on Midwifery Initiative
- Both schools recruited students to their programs
- Students at ODU took their didactic courses through the distance learning program where classes were televised at local community colleges throughout Virginia

Addressing Problem

- Both groups of students completed the Midwifery portion of their training at SU
- Students participated in learning opportunities/ clinical rotations in their own communities
- Students attended classes for two weeks each semester at SU
- By allowing students to learn in own rural environments, 84% have stayed after completing education

Increasing Cultural Competency

- Standardized Patients (4 patients during 2 weeks at SU each semester)
- Clinical Notes/SOAP Notes
- Projects



Purpose of Standardized Patient Program

- To provide a non-threatening opportunity for midwifery students to practice caring for patients of various cultures
 - ◆ Learn about cultural issues they may be unfamiliar with
 - ◆ Practice skills they have learned
 - ◆ Receive feedback
 - ◆ Focus on issues they may find uncomfortable
- To provide a standardized format so that all students will receive the same experience
- To evaluate the student's ability to provide culturally competent care



Standardized Patient (SP) Program

- Developed to teach students (MD, NP, RN, PA) to conduct histories and physicals using lay people trained as actors
- In collaboration with Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS)
- Used by ODU to educate Undergraduate Nurses, Nurse Practitioners and Midwives
- Patient scenarios are either presented at EVMS or transported five hours to Shenandoah University by van

Development of Standardized Patient

- The case is developed by faculty in the school of nursing at ODU based on information obtained through focus groups
- The staff at EVMS hires and trains actors from the community to depict the cases



Presentation of the Cases

- The students meet with the patient individually or in groups, review their chart, and gather information



Patient Assessment

- Students gather data about the patient's health, health behaviors, health beliefs, family, and culture



Physical Assessment

- Students can also gather physical data



Feedback

- The standardized patients provide students with feedback on their performance including:
 - ◆ Addressing sensitive cultural issues
 - ◆ Thoroughness of interview
 - ◆ Verbal and nonverbal communication



Evaluation of Students

- Assessed by Standardized Patient immediately after encounter using a flow sheets
- Feedback from NP faculty on SOAP Note
- Student conducted self-assessment

Example of Scenario for Standardized Patient

- Pregnancy with Cultural Issues
- Teen Pregnancy
- STD's
- Low SES
- Domestic Violence
- Teen Contraception
- Lesbian
- Cultural Beliefs and healthcare



Students Comments on Learning

- “The healthcare provider must recognize that though this may be unusual for her culture, it is not for the patient’s.”
- “I found it frustrating not knowing community resources to help this patient get her medication and proper foods.”
- “Thinking about community services and what is out there to help the uninsured is something I need to know more about.”
- “Her diet is impacted by her cultural background and financial situation.”
- “I would like to participate in more sessions like this and will pay myself.”

Future Plans

- Developing more cases based on focus groups
 - ◆ Disability
 - ◆ Other ethnicities
 - ◆ Underserved
 - ◆ Religious issues impacting health

- Creating video clips to go on Monarch General Hospital (a computer generated virtual learning platform)

- Getting input from consultant and advisors on cases