

Session 4063  
APHA 2009, Philadelphia  
*Join the STARS*

*A Culture of Excellence: Evidence-based Public Health Nursing Practice* is a three year grant awarded to the University of Minnesota School of Nursing by the federal Division of Nursing, Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services. STARS, an acronym for search, translate, adopt, refine, share, describes the roles of the evidence champions, a major component of the grant and focus of this presentation.

The grant will improve the quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of public health nursing programs and services through the adoption of evidence-based practice (EBP). Most of the development of EBP has occurred in clinical settings; this project will adapt evidence-based practice to a focus on population health. Evidence-based practice is a problem-solving approach that incorporates the best possible scientific evidence, clinician's expertise and client's preference and values. The utilization of EBP will promote effectiveness and efficiency in meeting the health needs of populations, particularly those vulnerable populations that experience significantly poorer health and disproportionately higher rates of illness, injury and death. This is critical in an era of diminishing public health resources and increasing public health problems.

The project is a multi-tiered and multi-faceted quality improvement, continuing education program for public health nurses. It consists of three major components:

1. training and supporting champions of evidence-based practice who will serve as promoters and mentors to staff and students interested in developing their practice based on the best evidence available,
2. creating and supporting the e2: Evidence Exchange website [[www.publichealthnurses.org](http://www.publichealthnurses.org)] to provide ready access to evidence and provide a communication conduit for knowledge and skills necessary to identify and create evidence-supported practice, and
3. developing a public health system supportive of EBP through extensive training of
  - a. state-level public health partnership
  - b. public health nursing faculty
  - c. local health department professional staff
  - d. culminating in a webcast available nationally.

Project Principals

Linda Olson Keller, DNP, APRN, BC, FAAN  
Clinical Associate Professor and Project Director  
University of Minnesota School of Nursing  
00+1+612-626-5144 or [olson173@umn.edu](mailto:olson173@umn.edu)

Emily Litt, DNP  
Assistant Teaching Professor and Project Consultant  
Brigham Young University School of Nursing  
00+1+801-422-3164 or [emily-litt@byu.edu](mailto:emily-litt@byu.edu)

Susan Strohschein, MS, RN, PHCNS-BC  
Research Fellow and Project Coordinator  
University of Minnesota School of Nursing  
Dinnaken Office Bldg, Suite 120  
Campus Delivery Code 2131  
925 Delaware St SE  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414  
USA  
00+1+612-626-9490 or [stroh025@umn.edu](mailto:stroh025@umn.edu)