



Track Coordinator, Post-graduate Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program

Karan Kverno, PhD, PMHNP-BC

Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, Department of Acute and Chronic Care, Baltimore, MD

Introduction

Access to mental health care is affected by severe workforce shortages, especially in rural areas of the country. Recruitment and retention into underserved areas is notoriously difficult. In addition, people with mental health needs often prefer to get their mental health care from their primary care providers. In 2013, the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission funded the NSPII grant that was used to develop and implement the JHU School of Nursing's post-graduate Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program (PMHNP). The overall aim is to encourage primary care NPs, who are already treating underserved populations, to take on the competencies required for the provision of quality mental health care. The program opened its doors in August 2014. This poster focuses on the leadership activities that I have engaged in to promote a successful and sustainable program.

Objectives

- Promote sustainability
- Program development, implementation and evaluation.
- Disseminate outcomes

Methods

Development and Recruitment

- ✓ Facilitated faculty and staff team planning meetings
- ✓ Sought out expertise within the SON and JHU community
- ✓ Leveraged relationships with health care providers and organizations in Maryland
- ✓ Developed four of the six courses in the program
- ✓ Worked with the Admissions team to admit cohorts 1 & 2

Implementation

- ✓ Competed year one of teaching

Evaluation

- ✓ Collected information from student performance and feedback, ANCC Pass rate, post-graduate employment type, geographical location and populations served
- ✓ Facilitated revisions in the program after the first year

Results

Recruitment and Development

- ✓ Year 1: 40 applications, 10 accepted, 9 matriculated, 8 graduated, 1 LOA
- ✓ Year 2: 98 applications, 20 accepted, 3 deferrals, 17 matriculated, 1 LOA
- ✓ Worked with the Admissions Committee to design a new admissions screening and decision making process for 2016.

Implementation: Online

- ✓ Clinical Psychopharmacology
- ✓ Psychotherapeutic Frameworks and Modalities
- ✓ PMHNP Practicum: Child/Adol
- ✓ PMHNP Practicum: Adult/Child

Evaluation

- ✓ Students: especially enjoyed VoiceThread discussions and phone supervision
- ✓ Pass rate: ongoing (3/3)
- ✓ Employment type (8 grads): All are treating underserved populations: Psychiatric IP (1), OP MH center (2), VA MH (1), OP Integrated care (2), Consultation psychiatry (1), Prison MH (1)
- ✓ Employment location: serving rural and located in rural areas (38%)

VoiceThread Communications

- I like the ability to see and hear my classmates since we are in an online format.
- It felt more personal, and hearing other people speak did not make me feel like a distance learner.
- I live the furthest away from the rest of my classmates and it maximizes my participation in class.
- It has facilitated the interaction within the constraints of our nation-wide physical distributions and time zones that allowed us to share and receive information expeditiously but clearly.
- It is a great way to learn about each other and to learn from each other.
- It has forced me to be concise and present the most salient points of the respective topic.

Response Option	Weight	Frequency	Percentage	Percent Response
Problem based case review	(1)	3	10%	
Instructional presence of practice issues	(2)	2	6%	
Take away summary points	(3)	1	3.3%	
Interactivity from instructor and classmates	(4)	5	16.7%	
VoiceThread case presentations and discussions	(5)	2	6.7%	
Content	(6)	4	13.3%	
Readings	(7)	4	13.3%	
Group discussions	(8)	3	10%	
Discussion of case presentations	(9)	3	10%	
Clarity and tracking of diagnosis, treatment, and outcomes	(10)	3	10%	
Practice questions	(11)	3	10%	
Return Rate		(4)	13.3%	

Dissemination

- ✓ **Kverno, K.,** Belcher, A., Ledebur, L., & Donnelly, M. (Submitted). *Applications of VoiceThread Technology in Graduate Education*. Workshop to be presented at the 42nd Annual Meeting of the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, Seattle, WA in April 2016.
- ✓ **Kverno, K.** (In press). Innovations in education: Promoting access through integrated mental health care education. *Open Journal of Nursing*.
- ✓ **Kverno, K.** (Apr. 2015) *Promoting integrated mental health care through an accelerated online post-graduate PMHNP program*. Symposium presented at the 41st Annual Meeting of the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, Baltimore, MD.
- ✓ **Kverno, K.** (Aug. 2014). *Promoting access through integrated health care education*. Presented at the International Nurse Practitioner / Advanced Practice Nursing Network Annual Conference. Helsinki, Finland.

Sustainability

Visibility

- ✓ Disseminate outcomes
- ✓ Active participation in national and local PMHNP and educational organizations (e.g., NONPF psychiatric and distance SIGS; APNA Graduate Education Counsel)

Faculty

- ✓ Recruit qualified (child/adol) PMHNP faculty
- ✓ Mentor doctoral and post-doctoral student TAs, with psychiatric expertise, who can assist and teach in the program
- ✓ Bring in adjunct clinical faculty who have expertise as dually prepared PMHNPs

Partnerships

- ✓ Develop academic-practice partnerships
- ✓ Develop relationships with appropriate state agencies to improve access to mental health care (serve on the boards of the Rural Maryland Healthcare Council and Maryland Gerontological Association)

Workforce

- ✓ Increase access to mental health care in rural and underserved areas
- ✓ Develop future preceptors in rural and underserved areas
- ✓ Develop future leaders in integrated mental health care

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