



**Implementing Successful Public Health Nursing Academic-Practice Partnerships  
October 20, 2017 11:15am**

**Panel Discussion of FY17 Pilot Projects**

The panelists will discuss the public health nurse pilot projects that were funded through the Illinois Nurses Foundation during FY17. Below is a project summary.

**Kankakee County Health Department (KCHD) and Olivet Nazarene University (ONU)**

**Immunization Compliance Project**

Laura Sztuba, MSN, RN, PHNA-NC  
Director of Community Outreach and Planning  
Kankakee County Health Department

And

Tawni Buente, MSN, RN  
Olivet Nazarene University

Thirteen ONU bachelors nursing students completed a community health project to improve immunization rates among infants enrolled in the Family Case Management (FCM) Program at KCHD. The student objectives were improved understanding of community health data analysis and to implement and evaluate an intervention. The population health outcome was increased immunization rates among infants in the FCM program. Six of the students completed an assessment of local provider practices through data analysis, literature review, and key informant interview. They developed a brochure on methods to promote FCM client education about immunizations. The other seven students completed an assessment of the FCM clients using data analysis, literature review and focus groups. They developed a brochure to provide to FCM clients information about the myths and facts of vaccinations. Each group provided a presentation to the KCHD staff about their community assessment findings, and the brochures they designed.

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**Jackson County Health Department and McKendree University**

**Asthma Project**

Karen G. Brown, RN, BSN  
Director of Nursing and Family Services  
Jackson County Health Department

And

Jan Albers DNP, RN, PHNA-BC, CLC  
Assistant Professor  
McKendree University

Empowering students to gain experiential learning opportunities in public health and to expand the capacity of the Public Health Department was the driving force in the Jackson County/McKendree University partnership. The pilot involved a deliberate collaborative and customized student project to expand Jackson County's reach to address a health department priority, climate change influenced asthma. Engaging the student with an expert public health nurse as a preceptor and building on

coursework centered on the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's (AACN) 2013 *Public Health: Recommended Baccalaureate Competencies and Curricular Guidelines for Public Health Nursing* served as the foundation to create an evidence based brochure to elevate awareness and facilitate effective management of asthma with the target audience being parents of children with asthma. The project is part of a larger initiative within the health department to build resilience in the community to combat the effects of climate change. The brochure serves as a sustainable tool for the health department and facilitated the student to active apply public health concepts through the practicum experience.

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**St. Clair County Health Department and McKendree University  
Employee Wellness Project, STI Prevention Project**

Robin Hannon, MSN, RN  
Director of Personal Health Services  
St. Clair County Health Department  
and  
Jan Albers DNP, RN, PHNA-BC, CLC  
Assistant Professor  
McKendree University

The longstanding St. Clair County Health Department/McKendree University partnership served as the foundation for two unique student projects. One focused on employee wellness through a worksite wellness project and the other was centered on health care providers in delivery of appropriate follow-up for sexually transmitted disease with the long-term goal was to extend the student's initial project to develop a webinar to be shared with additional health departments.

The two RN to BSN students were paired with public health nurses. Each nurse had individual expertise in the project focus area. Gaining from experiential learning opportunities, the students were individually guided by designated public health nurse preceptors. The work of the students through their projects empowered the health department expand the capacity of their initiatives in both worksite wellness programming and elevating knowledge and effectiveness of follow-up for those working with clients experiencing sexually transmitted disease.

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**Chicago Public Schools (CPS), EverThrive, Illinois and Rush University College of Nursing  
STI Prevention Project**

Fareeda Shabeez  
Principal  
Richard T. Crane Medical Preparatory High School/Chicago Public Schools

Sheila Sanders  
Manager, Outreach & Education  
EverThrive Illinois, Formerly Illinois Maternal & Child Health Coalition and

Monique Reed, PhD, RN  
Assistant Professor  
Rush University College of Nursing (RUCON)

During the 2016-2017 school year 8 Rush University College of Nursing (RUCON) masters students worked with Richard T Crane (RTC) students to build on the 2015-2016 school year partnership that started an after school program called Health Ambassadors Club addressing obesity prevention. The 2016-2017 partnership built on those relationships to establish an STI awareness program. A new stakeholder, EverThrive, was identified to assist with implementation of a peer based STI awareness program. Working with the RTC students and staff, RUCON nursing students and EverThrive worked to train RTC students as ambassadors to promote STI education. This approach built on the successful 2015-2016 foundation of creating peer educators/ leaders in

the RTC students. Research has shown that implementation of a peer-led sexual education program in high school students can aid in increased knowledge as peers feel more comfortable receiving this information from their own peers as opposed to an instructor (Layzer, Rosapep, & Barr, 2014). Through 8-weekly 1-hour sessions led by RUCON students and EverThrive, RTC students demonstrated positive peer interactions and showed the potential to be trained as peer leaders. All RTC students demonstrated increased knowledge in STI prevention. An unforeseen finding was that the RTC students requested additional mentorship to increase confidence to serve as peer educators.

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**Cook County Department of Public Health Nursing /St Xavier University School of Nursing  
Using Health Messaging To Promote Immunizations Project**

**Cook County Department of Public Health Nursing**

Debbie Brooks, MSN, RN Chief Nursing Officer  
Mary Gibb MSN, RN Director of Public Health Nursing  
Maria Ajuzie BSN, RN Public Health Nurse  
Margareth Douyon-Webb, BSN, RN Public Health Nurse  
Virginia Moore, MSN, RN Public Health Nurse  
Tilithia Watson, BSN, RN Public Health Nurse  
Sandra Taylor, BSN, RN Public Health Nurse  
Christine Burke, BSN, RN Public Health Nurse

**St Xavier University**

Glenda Morris Burnett PhD, MUPP, RN

The aim of this community based learning project was to enhance the development of a health messaging project to promote increased adherence to immunizations between 9 months and 18 months of age. The project specifically gathered information and proposed strategies in an effort to facilitate good health care provider and family relationships specifically with nurses from an early age, and the development of health messaging strategies tailored for childhood immunizations in Cook County.

The goals of the project were to:

- (1) Identify barriers that prevent the families from adhering to the immunization schedule between 12-18 months
- (2) Develop health communications strategies consistent with the way families access information so that they receive information that is accessible
- (3) Utilize technology to communicate with families to plan health care provider visits and to teach families what services are needed

