

Brave Space Discussions: An Interprofessional Education Initiative

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Topic: Leading & Advancing Improvements in Health, Health Care, & Higher Education

Category: Research Project

Abstract

Background/Introduction

Following the Interprofessional Socialization Framework, Brave Space Discussions brought Nursing, Occupational Therapy, and Physician Assistant students and faculty together to review an ethical patient case study while sharing a mindful perspective.

Purpose

The purpose was to bring healthcare disciplines within the School of Health Professions together to learn about each other's roles and responsibilities as healthcare providers as well as human beings with lived experiences. Brave space discussions encourage a classroom environment that acknowledges the challenges faced when attempting to address difficult and/or sensitive topics for the purpose of learning.

Methods or Processes/Procedures

After reviewing and acknowledging the 6 Pillars of a Brave Space Discussion, interdisciplinary groups reviewed a case and reflected independently prior to group discussion; first with their table, then as a large group. Students then completed a post-discussion assignment in their respective course and voluntary survey of their experience.

Results

Following Institutional Review Board approval, participants answered an 8 question Qualtrics survey resulting in 100% of respondents (N=21) agreeing that this activity enhanced their learning with, from and about each other's discipline to improve collaboration and patient care. Additionally, 95% of respondents reported that they learned something about themselves because of this activity further promoting emotional intelligence.

Limitations

The activity was limited by not having equal number of students in each discipline, although each small group had interdisciplinary representation. The survey response rate wasn't as high as anticipated due to timing in the semester.

Conclusions/Implications for Practice

Promoting discussions that allow health professions students and faculty to come together to share personal and professional perspectives allows for initial development of interprofessional socialization with the hope of improving healthcare team dynamics for future practice. Per student request, more interprofessional education activities have been planned.

Biography

Connie J. Perkins, PhD, RN, CNE is the Founding Director of Nursing at St. Bonaventure University in Western NY. She has opened three nursing programs for the university so far in her tenure. She is passionate about rural medicine, family caregiving, and interprofessional education. She is an emotional intelligence (EI) coach through TTI Solutions and has infused EI throughout her nursing programs to ensure "Bona Nurses" leave with all the tools in their toolbelts to combat burnout and have a lifelong career in nursing.

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