

## Transition to Practice for DNP Students: University of Alabama Birmingham

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## Objectives for Presentation

- Presenting exemplars for enhancing academic-clinical partnerships.
- Describe future plans for value-added practice immersion experience that impact system and population-health outcomes.

## UAB Doctoral Program

- Joint Collaborative with UAB, UA, and UAH
- Post-Master's program (40 credit hours)
- Advanced Practice Nurses (Direct Care, Systems)
- Focus on translational science
- Scholarly Practice Project
  - Individual
  - Team
  - Interprofessional Collaboration

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## University of Alabama at Birmingham Academic-Practice Partnership

- An academic-practice partnership is an effective framework for collaboration.
- DNP faculty, DNP students, DNP graduates
- Utilizing the talents of those in the partnership to the best of their abilities is key.



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## Climate Leading to the Idea

- One in six Alabamians, or 18.1 percent of the population, live below the national poverty level compared to approximately 14.3 percent nationally
- Recent closure of the regional indigent hospital, Cooper Green, has created a critical access to care issue for this vulnerable population
- In 2012, UAB provided emergency department and inpatient care to almost 6,100 indigent patients
- Idea—Create a nurse-led medical home for underserved patients with heart failure

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## UAB HRSA Grant Funding

- Health Resources and Services Administration: Nursing Education, Practice, Quality and Retention (NEPQR) Funding
  - Implement Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Model in a Transitional Care Heart Failure Clinic for the underserved
  - Address the Triple Aim



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## UAB HRSA Heart Failure Clinic

- Establish a Medical Home for Underserved Heart Failure Patients
- Interprofessional Collaborative Care Management
- Education (Self Management)
- Reduce Costs (decrease ED visits and readmissions)
- Transitional Care
  - Hospital
  - Clinic
  - Home



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## UAB and Birmingham Veterans Affairs Medical Center

- Recipients of the 2015 AACN Exemplary Academic-Practice Partnership Award for VA Nursing Academic Partnership
- Recognizes AACN members involved in highly productive and model academic-practice partnerships.
- The School and BVAMC enjoy a 40-year relationship—one that flourished in 2009 when partnership was developed with original VA Nursing Academy began (Dean and Fay B. Ireland Endowed Chair in Nursing Doreen Harper, PhD, RN, FAAN)

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## Foundation for transition to practice for DNP's

- Selected as one of the country's original VA Nursing Academies, now known as the VA Nursing Academic Partnership (VANAP), the partnership has grown to include a Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Residency and the country's first VA Nursing Academic Partnership for Graduate Education (VANAP-GE).

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## Transition in progress . . .



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## VA and UAB Partnership: Transition Exemplar

- October 2013, our partnership was selected as one of 4 MHNP residencies for a 3-year pilot program, the goal of which is to develop MHNP leaders who are well-prepared to work in interprofessional team environments with Veteran populations and who will be positioned for careers within the VA Health System.
- Residency co-directed by a BVAMC MHNP and a UABSON MHNP faculty member an provided increased access and improved care delivery for Veterans with mental health needs at the VA.
- Initial cohort of three MHNP graduates completed the year-long, full-time residency at the BVAMC in January 2015; one resident was hired by the BVAMC and took over the co-director role of the residency program.
- Second cohort of three residents began in January 2015 and is currently in process. Together, these two cohorts have provided almost 7,500 mental health visits for Veterans at the BVAMC.

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## Continuing the transition of doctoral practice

- July 2014, partnership grew to include the only VA Nursing Academic Partnership for Graduate Education (VANAP-GE) Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program in the country.
- Partnership (resulting in an MSN in psychiatric-mental health nursing) is charged with producing a minimum of 6- 12 MHNPs per class who complete the majority of their clinical experiences at the BVAMC and encouraged to enroll in and complete the MHNP residency at the BVAMC following graduation.

## Integrating translational science

- During the first year, VANAP-GE students have provided 1,130 mental health visits with Veterans and have increased access to care through the addition of a weekly After Hours Clinic staffed by VANAP-GE faculty and students.
- Residents as DNP students
  - Integrating practice immersion experience with residency
  - DNP Faculty mentoring

## Outcomes of partnerships in transitioning practice

- Development of new models of innovative care delivery based on strong and trusting relationships, shared faculty and trainees, innovation in education, staff development and patient care, and an emphasis on scholarship and inquiry – all focused on improving the nursing care for our nation's Veterans and their families – and now permanently woven into the fabric of our partnership.

## Aligning content with practice

- Clinical data management and analysis
- Translational science
  - Microsystem's Analysis
  - Model for Improvement
  - Program Evaluation
  - Intensive practice immersion along with brief episodic practice experiences

## Selected References

- AACN, (2004) Position Statement on the Practice Doctorate in Nursing.  
<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/DNP/DNPPositionStatement.htm>
- AACN. The Essentials of Doctoral Education for Advanced Nursing Practice. Approved by AACN Board July 2006.  
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- IOM (2003) *Health Professional Education A Bridge to Quality*