

EXEMPLARY ACADEMIC-PRACTICE PARTNERSHIP AWARD

‘THE DREAM TEAM’

History of the Partnership

The impetus for the creation of a 19-year multi-site, multi-sector partnership was the high asthma burden existing in local communities of poverty and diversity across Long Island (LI), New York (NY). The local Asthma Coalition of Long Island (ACLI) envisioned achievement of asthma control for local school-aged children and their families through evidence-based education and mobilization of community resources to improve access to care. To facilitate these population-focused goals, partnerships with colleges and universities were sought to implement asthma self-management education in school districts of highest need. Nursing students would serve as the workforce providing evidence-based education within the context of their community clinical placements. The broad base of local community public-school district administrators and school nurses were eager to commit to this collective population health challenge. This ‘Dream Team’ has demonstrated success in its sustainability over years, stability in its shared vision, formality, focus and strategic plan – and now serves as a best-practice prototype whose structure and process has been replicated in two upstate NY regions known for their high asthma burden.

The multi-site academic-practice partnership presented herein consists of: (a) three academic partners; (b) a community-based agency, the Asthma Coalition of Long Island (ACLI); and (c) seven public school districts located on Long Island.

Academic Partners

The Department of Nursing at Farmingdale State College resides in a public college institution, part of the State University of New York (SUNY) system. The Barbara H. Hagan School of Nursing and Health Sciences at *Molloy College* is part of a private Catholic institution, and the Department of Nursing at *St. Josephs College* is part of a private liberal arts college – all located on LI, NY.

The Community-based Agency

The Asthma Coalition of Long Island is one of five coalitions in New York State (NYS), four of which are funded by the NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) to the American Lung Association. Its mission is to implement systems-wide interventions for those communities with high rates of asthma-related hospitalizations and emergency department (ED) visits (NYSDOH, 2019).

The Community-based Public School Districts

Several LI public school districts were located in high-needs LI communities associated with socio-economic disparities, minority populations and substantial poverty. NYSDOH data reveals consistent higher than state ED visits and hospitalizations in these communities, for children (NYSDOH^a, 2018; NYSDOH^b, 2018)

The Research

The active integration and participation of nursing faculty and nursing students into true population health improvement has been one of the most substantial benefits. Findings from a recently published qualitative article exploring nursing student perceptions of their clinical experiences within this regional, cross-sector, community-based, multi-site academic practice partnership suggest that the context of this thriving partnership, established to improve population health outcomes, offered unique clinical learning opportunities for students through exposure to the value, ideas and innovation of the partnership itself (Janssen Breen et al, 2019).

A recently submitted quantitative manuscript, based on doctoral research spanning two years in the partnership, investigating the efficacy of the American Lung Association’s asthma self-management program for children, *Open Airways for Schools*®, demonstrated statistically significant benefits on public school children’s asthma self-management skills and asthma self-knowledge ($p < .01$) (Diamond-Caravella, 2017).

References

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