Assessing the Impact of Community-Based Interprofessional Student Teams on Health Outcomes and Healthcare Costs

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PRESENTATION FORMAT: 15 minute oral presentation

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Care Coordination, Evaluation, Cost Avoidance, Student Learning

ABSTRACT: Background: Coordinated Care Organizations are testing new models of care coordination to improve healthcare utilization and reduce per capita costs of care. For vulnerable populations, social determinants of health often limit their ability to engage in healthcare. Since 2012, OHSU?s Interprofessional Care Access Network (I-CAN) has partnered with neighborhood community service agencies and healthcare providers to work with high-risk individuals in 3 medically underserved communities in Oregon. Nursing Faculty-in-Residence expose interprofessional student teams to community-based care coordination, focusing on social determinants of health. Students have worked with over 100 referrals to identify and prioritize goals, meeting regularly with the clients, and with community partners to review client progress and next steps.

Methods: Descriptive statistics were analyzed for client demographics, prior health care utilization, and churn (constant life chaos) i.e.: housing, access to primary care, food security, health insurance, and health literacy. Data were collected at baseline and after 12 visits.
Results: Over half of the referrals were lost to follow-up, reflecting the instability of their lives. Increased access to primary care, health insurance, and stable housing were seen with continuing clients. Cost avoidance was demonstrated through decreased inappropriate health care utilization.

Conclusions: Interprofessional student teams are a valuable partner in community settings for linking vulnerable clients to health services and community resources.

OBJECTIVE(S): 1. Discuss the elements of a community-based care coordination model focused on social determinants of health.
2. Describe the measures used to evaluate client churn (constant life chaos).
3. Explain the difference between cost avoidance & cost savings

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