Existing Service-Learning Projects

Department: School of Nursing

Course ID & Name: CHN 2680L Community Health Nursing

How was the assignment structured?

Students are required to complete 23 hours of service. Activities must be health related (education, health/wellness outreach, screenings) with the target population being women and/or children. Service must be focused on maternal and/or pediatric health and well-being.

Describe the service.

Each semester there are several health fairs and wellness activities that students participate in (with the supervision of their professor). Through the organization of their professor and the School of Nursing service-learning faculty coordinator students host booths and conduct blood pressure, hypertension, cholesterol and BMI screenings. Additional booths are hosted solely for health education for adults and children including but not limited to colorectal cancer, breast health, proper hygiene for children, eating right etc. Service is often done as a class or in large groups to accommodate the number of patients seen. Students also conduct health education lectures for children/youth utilizing their own curricula or the Smoking Prevention Program curricula “They’re Rich and you’re Dead”; they also participate in health education outreach campaigns with partnering agencies. Community Partners include but are not limited to KidCo, Yvonne Learning Center, local middle/high schools, Florida Breast Health Initiative and Respect Life Ministry etc. Students also lead and organized forums on various health issues; more recently has been the issue of health care reform.

How did the service enhance students’ learning?

Each student enrolled in NUR2680L must attend 4 required lectures including one hosted by CCI—Forum of Civic Responsibility (2nd lecture after course orientation—prior to their service). In that, students gain a better understanding of their role as a healthcare professional within our greater society; democracy and democratic values are discussed. Students are also required to attend “Reflection Sessions”. Through techniques designated by the instructor students reflect and discuss their service and its significance within the world of community health. Group reflection activities include but are not limited to round table discussion, class presentations and lectures. Students are also required to maintain a personal journal of all their activities. Students are to not only to personally reflect on the completed service but also indicate the ways in which service meet the goals of Healthy People 2010, maternal & pediatric community health.

With service centered on health screenings and preventative health education students tackle the issues surrounding the healthcare industry and examine various health disparities. Students often
serve medically underserved/un-served populations and economically disadvantage residents within our immediate community. Through their service-learning experience, students gain practical knowledge of the definition of community health and health promotion. Through their interaction with diverse populations, students are able to directly examine the concepts of community health and the notion of disease prevention. Ultimately, students better understand the community they will serve and examine the many ways a nurse can practice outside of “the wall” and in the community.

MDC Learning Outcomes addressed include:

1. Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.
4. Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures, including global and historical perspectives.
6. Create strategies that can be used to fulfill personal, civic, and social responsibilities.
7. Demonstrate knowledge of ethical thinking and its application to issues in society.

How as the service-learning assessed?

Students are assessed through their participation in the group reflection sessions and based on their personal journal. Their connection between their service and the course objectives is evaluated. There needs to be an obvious association between their service and the way in which it relates to the goals of Healthy People 2010 and the maternal and pediatric health.

What changes would you make to this project in order to make it more effective?

Faculty Member Name: Varies—please see Medical Center Campus Faculty Service-Learning list for all Community Health Nursing Faculty.

Would they like their name and/or contact information published? Yes

Will the faculty member provide a copy of his/her syllabus? Yes…Under revision