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CENTER FOR NURSING PRACTICE
Introduction
Virginia Fowler

Many Tennesseans lack access to high quality, affordable health care; nurse-managed clinics and care can effectively fill these gaps by providing high quality, affordable health services. The Center for Nursing Practice (CNP) works to advance education, practice and research across the state by creating networks, assessing and addressing gaps, and creating solutions to improve health care. The CNP promotes the health of Tennessee communities through access to care, support the proliferation of nurse-managed clinics, community outreach, collaboration and provide quality education to nurses, healthcare professionals, and nurse leaders in the state of Tennessee and beyond.

In winter of 2015, the CNP completed a gap analysis of health care in Tennessee and it is available through our consortium. The gap analysis compared Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) scores across counties and areas of Tennessee and at the time of the gap analysis was completed, Tennessee was ranked 43rd out of the 50 states in regards to health status. The CNP’s goal is to change our ranking by encouraging the proliferation of nurse-led clinics and care.

The present CNP Consortium members include interested parties and attendees at one or both of our annual conferences. The 2018 conference will focus on telecommunications and will provide for those unable to travel the opportunity to connect with the conference using their own computers. Our consortium members have access to all PowerPoint slides and presentations from both annual conferences. To access this information, please contact Virginia at cnp@utk.edu.

The CNP is also home to the Continuing Education department and the Precious Prints Project at the College of Nursing. The College of Nursing is an approved provider through the Tennessee Nurse’s Association and the Center offers resources and opportunities for education in the form of live conferences and webinars. The Cultural Competence webinar series from the Tennessee Action Coalition is presently available on the Center’s website. The Precious Prints Project provides a sterling silver pendant to parents who lost a child in an area hospital. The project is actively expanding and looking for partnerships with other hospitals and schools of nursing. For more information on Precious Prints Project, please goto www.preciousprintsproject.com.

SUPPORT OF NURSE-MANAGED CLINICS AND CARE
Nan Gaylord, PhD, RN

The nursing profession has already demonstrated that APRN care is safe and cost-effective. We can successfully provide and lead direct care services to patients and communities. We, however, do not need to do it alone. We need to support each other by describing our successes and asking colleagues about solutions to the practice struggles encountered. We share so that others will not waste time searching for an answer already known. Therefore, we have several sponsors to our program willing to assist NPs in developing their practices and a blog for posting questions to other NP consortium members. Add your name to the consortium by contacting Virginia Fowler at cnp@utk.edu.

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POPULATION HEALTH: A NEW PERSPECTIVE
Carole Myers, PhD, RN

In the past population health was considered the purview of public health. There was a major distinction between public health and clinical care. However population health is increasingly seen as spanning public health and clinical care. Clinicians such as Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, Registered Nurses, physicians, and other healthcare providers are being challenged to adopt a population health perspective and being held accountable for specific population health outcomes.

Provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) extend accountability for population health to providers of clinical care. These provisions provide incentives and the scaffolding for collaboration and integration across disciplines to provide the greatest benefit to patients and populations. Funding for preventive care and public health; support for primary care providers and services; and a new reimbursement models, including pay for performance and bundled payments, support efforts to achieve the two major aims of population health. These aims are to reduce health disparities and improve population outcomes. Population health practice targets groups of people with similar needs or characteristics and relies on the best evidence available.

The Future of Nursing report, complementing the ACA, calls for a population health perspective and the transformation of the delivery of health care with nurses providing needed leadership. The report recommends specific goals for changes that are needed to increase the value of U.S. healthcare. Increasing value requires delivering care that maximizes individual and population outcomes and performance of the U.S. healthcare delivery system in an efficient, cost-effective way.

One of the nuances of population health is the premise that solutions must be multi-factorial. According the County Health Rankings, health disparities and outcomes are related to interconnected determinants. The contributions of the determinants of clinical care and health behaviors might be a surprise. Clinical care and health behaviors contribute 20% and 30% respectively to outcomes. Social and economic factors at 40% contribute the most. It is important to note that clinical care and health behaviors are socially-situated, meaning that the choice you make are based on the choices you have and clinical care is influenced by a number of factors including where you live, unconscious bias, and whether you are insured or not. Physical environment accounts for 10% of the factors that influence your health status.

So what does all this mean to nurses? It means that nurses have tremendous opportunity to contribute to the transformation of the delivery of health care and improvement in outcomes and overall system performance.

A MODEL OF CARE TO ADDRESS SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH
Kathryn Parke, DNP, APRN, CPNP
and
Christiane Meireles, PhD, RDN, LD

Dr. Kathryn Parke and Dr. Christiane Meireles from UT Health San Antonio School of Nursing presented on their collaboration with a high school to provide health care services for students and their children. They discussed how they are utilizing a social and behavioral determinants of health (SBDOH) perspective. A team consisting of members with different skill sets from both the School of Nursing and the high school have worked together to provide a comprehensive approach to health care at the school.

The team includes two pediatric nurse practitioners, a psychiatric nurse practitioner, a doctorally prepared dietician, a Registered Nurse, two school counsellors, a mental health counselor and an undergraduate OB class.

Services provided to the students include: screening for SBDOH, traditional clinic services, health and parenting classes, nutrition classes, a breast feeding support group, dietary counselling, behavioral health care, and social support with issues such as food and housing insecurity. The dietician and the school cafeteria manager revamped the school menu to improve its nutritional quality. A student managed vegetable garden has supplemented the menu and the vegetables have been used in cooking classes which has exposed the students to healthy ways of cooking.

All services are provided at the high school; this decreases school absences, increases access to care, and is in the students’ “home turf” which has helped in the development of trusting relationships and strong connections between the students and health care team. Referrals between team members are seamless because of the colocation of services and the excellent collaboration among the team.
2018 CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS
SUSTAINABILITY AND INNOVATIVE MODELS FOR NURSE-LED CARE AND CLINICS

Welcome from Dr. Nan Gaylord (Left) and session from Casey Alrich (Right) entitled, “Nursing Leadership Under Payment Reform”. Sessions and posters focused on the sustainability and innovative models for nurse-led care. All materials are available through the consortium website. https://nursing.utk.edu/service-learning/center-for-nursing-practice/nurse-led-care/

Elizabeth Vernon and Julie Hubbard wrote, “The demand for primary healthcare is projected to increase over the next five years. Variables that are contributing to this increase in demand includes: 1). population growth, 2). increased age and life expectancy, and 3). expanded health insurance coverage. However, there are not enough primary care physicians to meet this increasing demand. Advanced practice nurses can capitalize on this increased demand for healthcare providers. Some nurses may choose to contract their services to physicians. However, others may choose to establish an independent nursing practice. The establishment of an independent practice provides an opportunity to gain autonomy in one’s chosen area of practice; the ability to provide care to specific population groups in various healthcare settings; and gain experience in entrepreneurship. In order for nurse practitioners to consider opening privately owned health care businesses, they must consider various pros and cons related to establishing and maintaining a successful practice.”

Dr. Carole Myers’ (Left) presentation focused on “Embracing Population Health” while Dean Niederhauser’s (Right) presentation focused on strategic planning for nurse-led care.