

# THE UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND



## Innovative Interprofessional Collaboration: Addressing the Need for Education for Community Health Center Workers around Patients' Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

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# BACKGROUND

## PARTICIPANTS

- 4 University of Rhode Island students
- Wood River Health Services staff and administration



## PURPOSE

- Address barriers to collection of patient SOGI data
- Expose students to IPE and practice



## ACTION

- Collaboration
- Informal survey
- Narrated training tool
- Resource manual



*Wood River Health Services*

**SOGI/Sexual Orientation  
& Gender Identification**

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# OBJECTIVES

1

## **PROVIDE**

Opportunity to apply interdisciplinary theory to solve a concern for a healthcare partner

2

## **ASSESS**

Staff needs, attitudes, and knowledge related to SOGI and health care

3

## **CREATE**

A training tool to facilitate patient comfort in disclosing SOGI-related information



# METHODS

- Coordination between students, administration, and Diversity Team
- Informal survey explored staff SOGI-related attitudes and knowledge
- Training presentation design to view as needed, when convenient, and for staff and for new staff orientation

Survey themes incorporated into training presentation:

- ✓ how to support health care needs of patients with diverse SOGI backgrounds
- ✓ the unique health care needs of LGBTQ+ patients
- ✓ strategies to create a LGBTQ+ welcoming environment



# OUTCOMES

## STUDENTS

- Improved teamwork skills
- Identified SOGI and LGBTQ+ knowledge gaps
- Met WRHS staff SOGI training needs

## WRHS STAFF

- Increased knowledge of SOGI terminology and health disparities
- Better able to address LGBTQ+ patient needs

## CHALLENGES AND ADJUSTMENTS

- COVID-19 prevented onsite staff training
- Complex student schedules
- Deadlines related to course and WRHS
- Student disciplines were not represented at WRHS



# CONCLUSIONS

IP experience facilitates understanding and appreciation of roles of healthcare professions

Informational presentations are useful to facilitate improved staff comfort related to SOGI topics

Community resources can contribute to cost-effective solutions to address health care and educational challenges



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