

Health Mentors' Evaluation of Program Impact and Student Effectiveness

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Background

- The Jefferson Health Mentors Program (JHMP) is a two-year interprofessional education (IPE) experience
- Students from six different disciplines (Couples and Family Therapy, Medicine, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy, and Physical Therapy) participate and are assigned to a team that includes a Health Mentor



Background

- Previous research studies have focused on student perceptions regarding interprofessional education (IPE)¹
- This pilot study evaluated the Health Mentor's (HM) perspective relative to the program's success

Methods

- Mentors who completed the JHMP were identified and mailed a voluntary anonymous survey regarding their participation in the program
- Each envelope included a cover letter identifying purpose of the survey, the survey itself, and a preaddressed return envelope with a stamp
- Mentors who did not return the paper survey were called and invited to complete the survey over the phone or to mail the completed survey

Methods

- 77 surveys were mailed to the HMs
- 49 were returned via mail
- 30 phone calls were made
 - 8 calls resulted in verbal completion over the phone
- A total of 52 surveys were analyzed

Methods

- The survey
 - Sixteen 4-point Likert scale statements
 - 1 = strongly disagree to 4 = strongly agree
 - Eleven statements grounded in the Interprofessional Education Collaborative's (IPEC) four core competencies²:
 - Values/Ethics for Interprofessional Practices (2 statements)
 - Roles/Responsibilities for Collaborative Practice (2 statements)
 - Interprofessional Communication (5 statements)
 - Interprofessional Teamwork and Team-based Care (2 statements)
 - Five statements addressed the program's impact
 - One open-ended question addressing how the program impacted them

Data Analysis

- Survey results were entered into Microsoft Excel
- Results were analyzed with SPSS
- Each statement was analyzed with the averages from all the HM responses

Survey Question Examples by IPEC Core Competencies

- Values/Ethics for Interprofessional Practices
 - “My student team treated me with respect”
- Roles/Responsibilities for Collaborative Practice
 - “I understand the different roles and responsibilities of the healthcare students who made up my team”
- Interprofessional Communication
 - “My student team communicated well with one another”
- Interprofessional teamwork and Team-based Care
 - “The students on my team worked well together”

Results

IPEC Competency	Averages
Values/Ethics for Professional Competencies	4.0 +/- 0.0
Roles/Responsibilities for Collaborative Practices	3.85 +/- 0.23
Interprofessional Communication	3.69 +/- 0.50
Interprofessional Teamwork and Team Based Care	3.86 +/- 0.39

Other	Average
HM learned from their teams	3.2 +/- 0.94
HM taught their team	3.70 +/- 0.65

Results

- 52/77 HMs responded to the survey
 - 67.5% response rate
- The results were very positive, with all average competency ratings > 3 (out of 4)
- Per the data obtained via this survey, it appears that the students fulfilled the IPEC competencies

Qualitative Results - Quotes from our HMs

- “Inspired me to think differently about how to deal w/ the emotional aspects of having a chronic disease during the prime years of my life. Gave me hope - such fresh minds, open, caring, and committed to their specialties in health care. They worked well together and were a bright spot in my life for two years. Thank you to them wasn't enough.”
- “The Health Mentors Program has given me a voice. It makes me feel good knowing that I can have an impact on the next generation of Medical professionals. When I first became a health mentor I wanted be a Social Worker, now being on what is my third or fourth group of students, I think I want to be a teacher.”

Qualitative Results - Quotes from our HMs

- “Impressed with students eagerness to get to know my special needs and individuality.”
- “Respectable young professionals take time out of their busy schedules to sit down and talk with me for an hour or more about my health problems...They cared about me and I them. Please don't ever stop this program.”

Discussion

- Overall, the JHMP program is meeting and/or exceeding the IPEC core competencies for our students
- The JHMP appears to be making a difference in the lives of our volunteer HMs
- Room for improvement in the current survey?
- Next steps
 - Try to increase discrimination in the survey results, given highly positive responses
 - Future surveys will have their diction more closely scrutinized and ask about more specific aspects of the HMP in an effort to produce more discrimination in HM responses

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References

1. Collins LG, Sokas CM, Umland E, Speakman E, Koeuth S, Jerpbak C, Lim E, Roy V. Student Reflections on Interprofessional Education: Moving from Concepts to Collaboration. 47th STFM Annual Spring Conference. Peer Paper accepted, May 2014.
2. Interprofessional Education Collaborative. Core Competencies for Interprofessional Collaborative Practice. <http://www.asph.org/userfiles/collaborativepractice.pdf>. Published February 2011. Accessed October 29, 2013.

Any questions?