Interprofessional Education during an International Medical Mission

Karen E. Arscott, DO, MSc

THE COMMONWEALTH MEDICAL COLLEGE

Operational Definitions

- **Interprofessional Education**: “When students from two or more professions learn about, from and with each other to enable effective collaboration and improve healthcare.” (WHO, 2010)
- **Interprofessional Collaborative Practice**: “When multiple health workers from different professional backgrounds work together with patients, families, careers, and communities to deliver the highest quality care.” (WHO, 2010)
- **Interprofessional Teamwork**: “The levels of cooperation, coordination and collaboration characterizing the relationships between professions in delivering patient-centered care.” (Interprofessional Education Collaborative Expert Panel, 2011)
- **Interprofessional Team-Based Care**: “Care delivered by intentionally created, usually relatively small work groups in health care, who are recognized by others as well as by themselves as having a collective identity and shared responsibility for a patient or group of patients.” (Interprofessional Education Collaborative Expert Panel, 2011)

Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Competency Domains

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competency Domain 1:</th>
<th>Measurable Outcomes for Interprofessional Practice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Competency Domain 2:</td>
<td>Roles/Responsibilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competency Domain 3:</td>
<td>Interprofessional Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competency Domain 4:</td>
<td>Team and Teamwork</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What is a Team?

- **A team** comprises a group of people linked in a common purpose. Teams are especially appropriate for conducting tasks that are high in complexity and have many interdependent subtasks.
- **A group in itself does not necessarily constitute a team.** Teams normally have members with complementary skills and generate synergy through a coordinated effort which allows each member to maximize his/her strengths and minimize his/her weaknesses. **Team members need to learn how to help one another**, help other team members realize their true potential, and create an environment that allows everyone to go beyond their limitations.[3] A team becomes more than just a collection of people when a strong sense of mutual commitment creates synergy, thus generating performance greater than the sum of the performance of its individual members.

**Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia**

Results

Create a team and take them outside their comfort zone – make them vulnerable.

What happens to that team?

They learn together while caring for people in need - interprofessional education

### July 2012 Team:
- 2 Doctors
- 2 PA students
- 1 nurse and 1 nursing student
- 2 dieticians and 2 nutrition students
- Visited a Haitian grocery store with dieticians – learned first hand the dietary struggles of our patients

### April 2013 Team:
- 4 doctors
- 2 medical students
- 2 social workers
- 1 nurse

- Watched the social worker teach an entire group of waiting patients hygiene for women through a male translator and then work with individual patients suffering from PTSD.

In-Country Situation:

- None to very limited internet access
- None to limited (and expensive) phone service
- No library – No TV

What does one do?

Team Meetings!

Wherever…

How to start?

- Decide to create an interprofessional team
- Plan to travel safely to an area in need – where medical care is not only needed but also appreciated.
- Prepare the team for the needs of the area – meet a few times before leaving.
- Make sure team has the same purpose in mind
- Allow it all to run its course – and a true team is born.
- Students witness faculty collaborating not only with other faculty but with students and local professionals as well.

Suggestions:

- Either add to existing course or create an IPE course –

  **Advantages:**
  - Can use financial aid for expenses
  - Require feedback
  - Serious students usually
  - Recourse if something goes wrong

  **Disadvantage** – school buy-in required

Course Objectives

- To develop and apply clinical screening, assessment, intervention, and health education skills.
- To encourage mentorship, teamwork, and collaboration.
- To cultivate specialized skills and experiences that foster a learning environment to pursue research, internships, professional advancement, and continued service to others.
- To develop a deeper understanding of cultural differences and how they relate to the health status of a population

Haitian Quote - teaching students

“There, you guys try to make things perfect...here, we try to make things possible.”

Acknowledgements

- Diane (Haleem) Shea, R.N., PhD
- Joanne Christaldi, PhD, R.D.
- Jessica Bodzio, MS, RD, LDN
- Heart to Heart International, Haiti

References