Enriching Clinical Learning Environments through Partnerships in Long-Term Care (ECLEPs)

This project builds capacity for long-term care (LTC) facilities to be excellent clinical learning sites for nursing students in the Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education (OCNE). Through community-academic partnerships, we are developing a model training and support program that provides LTC staffs with essential knowledge and skills to enhance their practice setting and support students’ learning. The product of this proposal will be four enriched LTC clinical education sites for nursing students, two in nursing facilities and two in community-based LTC facilities (e.g. assisted living, residential care). The program will be available for replication by other schools and LTC facilities throughout Oregon and the Northwest. This project is funded by the Northwest Health Foundation (NWHF).

Specific objectives are to:

1. Develop a training program for LTC nurses and other staff to create an enriched practice/learning environment for both the staff and nursing students.
2. Provide mentored coaching to facilities that complete the training program during a subsequent clinical rotation of students at their facility.
3. Build a network of peer partners that supports excellence in clinical education in LTC through mutual goal setting and problem solving to sustain enriched clinical learning environments.

Through these objectives the project addresses three critical goals of the funding organization, the NWHF:

1. Create or enhance nursing partnerships between home and community-based LTC settings/providers and academic institutions, including expanding the availability of quality clinical experiences for nursing students.
2. Bolster interest in geriatric nursing as a practice specialty.
3. Support the development of relationships between academia, practice, and state and national groups working on issues of health care for seniors.

Partners

Cedar Sinai Park (pilot site)
Community Based Care Nurses Association
Fairlawn Good Samaritan Village & Health Center (pilot site)
Hartford Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence, Oregon Health Sciences University
Mary’s Woods at Marylhurst (pilot site)
Oregon Alliance of Senior and Health Services
Oregon Center of Nursing Long Term Care Task Force
Oregon Health Care Association
Oregon Seniors & People with Disabilities
Portland State University
Town Center Village (pilot site)

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BENEFITS TO PARTICIPATION AS AN ECLEPS PARTNER

- Recruit and retain nurses in LTC with enthusiastic partners from practice, education, and regulatory organizations.
- With nursing students, design and implement facility-specific projects related to best practices for resident care.
- Evaluate and recruit nursing students for eventual employment.
- Receive tailored education related to organizational development, person-centered care, best practices in geriatric care, and leadership. Facility nurses, other staff and administration will receive a range of educational materials, services, and other resources based on individual and institutional needs and interests.
- Stipends provided for RNs as preceptors to nursing students.
- Access to a mentor-coach RN to help facilitate organization development for a LTC-based community of learners (staff and students) committed to best care for residents and an energized work environment for staff.
- Receive public acknowledgement of facility’s key role on this Northwest Health Foundation-funded project.
- Provide and receive feedback regarding the piloted clinical project; participate in any modifications over time to the project.

ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITMENTS AS AN ECLEPS PARTNER:

- Participate in creating and piloting an innovative model for clinical nursing education.
- Administration and facility staff participation in activities to foster a culture of learning.
- Administration, nursing, and other staff support for up to 4 nursing students’ learning:
  - welcome student and faculty participation in the setting,
  - include students in problem-solving care issues,
  - help students to identify potential service projects that meet facility needs and support student learning.

Students will be on site for approximately 10 to 15 hours/week over a ten week period.

- Commitment and dedicated time (~ 1 to 2 hours over 2 days per week per course term) by one RN to support student learning: In conjunction with the faculty, guide students to identify learning opportunities within the facility, and provide feedback to students on their activities.
- Willing to have students on site without continuous physical presence of faculty. Faculty will be on site on a daily basis, and will have ongoing interaction with students and facility staff.
- Provide space for students to work on projects. This may be a counter or desk or table in a relatively quiet area.
- Desirable: Staff access to the Internet or other computer-related resources.