Educating Rural PMH Advanced Practice Nurses

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Objectives

1) Describe the need for a PMHNP program in Southeast Georgia, and the process and goals for developing this program;
2) Identify essential partnerships and collaborative efforts in the Behavioral Health workforce;
3) Describe outcomes and future goals.
Need for Program

Georgia:
- Currently ranks 47th in the nation for access to mental health care
- Experiencing a critical shortage of psychiatric-mental health service providers

Purpose:
- Serve the psychiatric/mental health needs of rural and underserved communities
- Innovative educational strategies to reach these populations include simulated therapy via distance using telehealth technologies throughout the curriculum
- New/enhanced academic-clinical partnerships
Need for Program

• Role of PMHNP
• FNPs have been serving the need due to lack of appropriately trained personnel
• Many students enrolled in our track are already FNPs
Funding / Program Goals

• Develop and deliver an Advanced Practice Nurse Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) specialty track;
• Incorporate innovative educational strategies, such as simulation and telehealth technologies in each course;
• Increase the number of graduate and post-master’s graduates who provide PMH care to diverse and vulnerable populations who plan to practice in rural or medically underserved;
• Evaluate quarterly using Rapid Cycle Quality Improvement (RCQI) evaluation:
  – a) Student learning outcomes and performance
  – b) Effectiveness of academic-practice partnerships
  – c) Student certification and employment after graduation
  – d) Impact of the project on practice partners
  – e) Dissemination of project outcomes
Developing the Program

Spring 2014
- Initial request
- Obtain support from faculty and college
- Assemble the team (Graduate Program Director, 3 faculty)
- Discuss purpose, goals, curriculum design

Fall 2014
- School level approval of proposed program and curriculum
- Establish curriculum design
- Obtain support of stakeholders
Developing the Program

Spring 2015

- HRSA ANE Proposal Submitted
- University level approval
- Development of resource networks CAB and Consultants
- Begin course development
- Curriculum mapping to align with professional standards

Summer 2015

- Notice of ANE grant award
- Continue course development
- Development of outcome evaluation measures
- Development of preceptor orientation
- Development of student orientation
- Establishment of Community Advisory Board
- Working with consultants for best practices in simulation and telehealth
- Researching, selecting and ordering of telehealth technologies
Fall 2015

• Hiring process for Administrative Assistant and IT positions
• Continued Course development and preparation
• Ordering of telehealth equipment
• Community Advisory Board Meetings begin
# Overview of PMHNP Track

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course No.</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Credit Hrs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 7131</td>
<td>PMHNP 1: Individual MH Care Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 7124</td>
<td>PMHNPC 1: Individual MH Care Across the Lifespan Clinical (180 hrs.)</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 7133</td>
<td>PMHNP 2: Mental Health Care of the Child &amp; Family</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 7125</td>
<td>PMHNPC 2: Mental Health Care of the Child &amp; Family Clinical (180 hrs.)</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 7127</td>
<td>PMHNP 3: Care of the Individual and Family with Substance Use Disorders</td>
<td>Fall</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 7126</td>
<td>PMHNPC 3: Care of the Individual and Family with Substance Use Disorders Clinical (180 hrs.)</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 7111</td>
<td>PMHNP 4: Community and Vulnerable Populations</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Our Students

Cohort One (2016)
- 9 Post-Masters Certificate students began
- 5 Graduates
- Outcomes –
  - 100% successful on Barkley’s PMHNP exit exam
  - 4/5 students certified

Cohort Two (2017)
- 11 total students began
  - 5 BSN-DNP students
  - 6 Post-Masters Certificate students
- 9 students remain and are expected to graduate in December
Essential Partnerships

Community Advisory Board

• The Community Advisory Board Meetings are a place for preceptors and partners to discuss clinical experiences with faculty and staff so we can build and improve our program as well as to keep an open line of communication with preceptors and key community stakeholders.

• Permanent Community Advisory Board members include:
  – Georgia Regional Hospital, Savannah
  – Memorial Health University Medical Center, Savannah
  – Willingway Hospital, Statesboro
  – Pineland BHDD (CSB), Statesboro

Preceptors

• Preceptors through established partnerships
• New partnerships established through preceptor expansion
• Preceptors are invited to corresponding Community Advisory Board Meetings
2017 Behavioral Health Practice Update

- This program provided practice updates on selected topics designed to benefit interdisciplinary behavioral health providers.
- The program highlighted expert speakers from nursing, medicine, counseling, social work, and education, along with CEUs for those disciplines.
- Offered with Community Partners and Magnolia Coastlands AHEC.
Looking Forward

BHWET Funding
• Recently received $1.6 million grant for behavioral health workforce education and training
• BSN – DNP students in the PMHNP track are eligible for stipends

Student Enrollment
• Student enrollment and graduation rates are gradually increasing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cohort</th>
<th>New BSN – DNP PMHNP Students</th>
<th>Students that began PMHNP Track</th>
<th>Student withdrawals</th>
<th>Graduates</th>
<th>Graduates Passing certification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4/5 (all that took the exam)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Projected 9</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Application Deadline March 1st, 2017</td>
<td>Projected 8</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Looking Forward

Faculty Recruitment
• Recruitment for additional PMHNP faculty still ongoing
• As program grows, we hope to use the opportunity to “grow our own”

Consolidation
• Consolidation with Armstrong State University
• Effective January 1, 2018
• First consolidated classes will begin Fall, 2018
• Expands partnerships, resources, and student population and recruiting opportunities
Looking Forward

Overarching Goals

1. Increase number of Psych Mental Health APRNs prepared to work in rural communities.
2. Facilitate more partnerships between Georgia Southern and Behavioral Health facilities.
3. Teach telehealth so students in rural areas are prepared to provide this state of the art care.

Progress

1. 5 graduates, with 9 more expected in December
2. 4 original partners with many additional preceptor partnerships over the last 2 years
3. Partnering with Georgia Partnership for Telehealth has facilitated incorporation of telehealth in curriculum
Questions?

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