

Change Agents to the Underserved: Service Education (CAUSE) - Abstract

This four-year CAUSE project (year one is a preparation year) will educate a minimum of 72 nursing students and 12 practicing RNs in the CCTM model and Association of Community Health Nurse Educators (ACHNE) competencies. It will also educate a minimum of 60 practicing RNs and 30 other health care professionals including medicine, social work and psychology in the role of the RN practicing at the full scope of their license in community-based primary care teams. The ultimate outcome of the CAUSE project is to increase the number of nurses working in primary care at the full scope of their license, to improve the health and well-being of patients outside the hospital, prevent hospital admission via population health management and to ultimately demonstrate a cost savings through care coordination and management of chronic illnesses, mental health and substance use issues. This CAUSE project has three major goals:

Goal 1: Hire, educate and retain four RNs to practice evidence based primary care at the full scope of their license and to serve as preceptors to RN students in the three Clinic Partners. Goal 2: Recruit and retain a minimum of 72 baccalaureate nursing students committed to practicing in non-institutional settings to improve access to primary care health care in medically underserved communities. Goal 3: Educate at least 60 RNs and 30 other healthcare providers by disseminating evidence based content on Team Based Primary Care. These goals will be accomplished via the following overview of activities:

- Partner with three primary care clinics by embedding four RNs in the three clinics, two RNs in Chestnut Health FQHC (Chestnut), one in Community Health Care Clinic (CHCC) and one in McLean County Health Department (MCHD) and educate them on the Care Coordination and Transition Management (CCTM) model. This model supports the ability of the RN to meet the needs of patients and their families with co-occurring chronic complex illnesses and support population health management.
- Establish an advisory board to provide guidance to the CAUSE project.
- Embedded RNs will serve as preceptors for the CAUSE project nursing students
- Educate CAUSE project RNs and practicing RNs to work in the primary care settings and implement the CCTM model by developing and providing a Primary Care Education Program;
- Modify the MCN's nursing curriculum to include more primary care, population health and care coordination didactic content and include 150 clinical hours in primary care at the three Clinic Partners for the 72 CAUSE nursing student participants; These clinical experiences will be designed to support graduates' achievement of generalist nursing competencies as defined by the Association of Community Health Nurse Educators (ACHNE) and development of competencies to execute the Care Coordination and Transition Management model (CCTM) in primary care settings. The clinical experiences outlined in this CAUSE project will help to expand an already strong community/mental health curriculum, and provide graduates with additional competencies for practice in community-based, primary care settings with underserved populations.
- Offer an annual conference to educate RNs and other health care professionals on the team based approach to primary care with an emphasis on the role of the RN's full scope of practice;
- Educate nursing, social work and psychology students and other healthcare professionals on the team based approach to primary care through inter-professional education (IPE) via simulation

This CAUSE project will substantially benefit underserved populations and help meet the local health department, therefore we request Funding Preference.

Funding amount requested- \$2,729,705