Introduction

Interprofessional education (IPE) has been identified as a priority for delivery of safe, effective, efficient, patient-centered care. The Institute of Medicine noted in 2001 that "equipping a workforce with new skills and ‘new ways of relating to patients and each other’ demands both retraining of the current health professions workforce and interprofessional learning approaches for preparing future health care practitioners." In that same year the LEAD added a new recommendation (7.9) which states that "...the core curriculum of the medical education program prepares medical students to function collaboratively on health care teams that include health professionals from other disciplines as they provide coordinated services to patients" (LEAD, 2014, 2016). An understanding of professional roles and expertise of team members is critical and should start early in student’s professional development.

Approach

The leadership at the University of Connecticut appreciated the need for an increase in IPE and the Interprofessional (IP) Task Force evolved which consists of members of the schools of nursing, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, dietetics, social work, physical therapy and allied health/labor sciences. The group was established in 2013 and later converted into a standing university committee, called the Committee on Interprofessional Excellence in Healthcare (CIPEH). Subcommittees were developed that expanded to include both CIPEH member and non-member faculty and include committees for: Dean’s Afternoon, Faculty Development, Student Advisory, IPE curriculum and website. Health science Deans committed to cancelling classes for one half day each semester to provide an IPE specific activity. The inaugural event occurred on October 30, 2015; the 2nd annual event was held on September 28, 2016. Students from the schools listed participated. Agenda: Students ate lunch in IP teams; like profession groups discussed myths about their profession and representatives reported out; IP group teambuilding paper chain activity with debrief; IP patient case discussion and report out.

Example Memes For Mythbuster Activity

Social Worker

PHYSICIAN

Aggregate Pre-Event vs. Post-Event Survey

IPE Disposition Question
(n=546 Aggregate, matched responses)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Pre/Post-Mean</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shared learning with other health professions students will increase my ability to understand clinical problems (D 1)</td>
<td>4.21 4.28</td>
<td>0.077 -0.008</td>
<td>0.162 p &lt; .08</td>
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<tr>
<td>I don’t want to waste time learning with other health professions students (D 2)</td>
<td>1.95 1.78</td>
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<tr>
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<td>0.138 p &lt; .19</td>
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<tr>
<td>I would welcome the opportunity to work on small group projects with other health students/professionals (D 4)</td>
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<td>0.244 0.158</td>
<td>0.329 p &lt; .00</td>
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Do you feel the pre-work was useful for today’s session? 2.24 1.670 2.90 1.546 0.658 p < 0.01

I would recommend the Myth Busters activity to future classmates. 3.88 1.046 4.04 0.809 0.158 p < 0.05

The case discussion activity was effectively facilitated. 3.85 0.991 4.19 0.761 0.336 p < 0.01

Working in mixed professions groups during the case discussion activity enhanced my awareness of the value of an interprofessional team in healthcare delivery. 4.09 0.928 4.40 0.723 0.303 p < 0.01

Conclusions

• Overall Dean’s afternoon has been deemed a success as a first step in introducing students to other health professions
• Repeated activities will be planned and threaded through the curriculum using clinical intersections with students learning and collaborating together in authentic environments
• Future research: effect of curriculum change on attitude

References


Dean’s Afternoon – An Adventure in Interprofessionalism

Ellen Olarsch Nestler MD FACP and Eric Bernstein JD EdD

University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Farmington CT

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References


*The Dean’s Day Committee who planned and operationalized these events includes: Paula McCaulay, Devra Dang, Susan Glenney, Bruce Gould, Susan Gregoire, Annette Jakubisin Konicki, Brenda Kurz, Tina Liang