

# I-CAN QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



## WHAT IS I-CAN?

The Interprofessional Care Access Network (I-CAN) is a 3-year grant project funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration. The purpose of I-CAN is to create a collaborative model for clinical practice and education, while enhancing the health care experience, improving population health outcomes, and reducing health care costs for Oregon's disadvantaged and underserved individuals, families, and populations. The project builds collaboration between academic programs, community service organizations, and health care agencies by forming interprofessional teams of students during their clinical rotations, including medicine, nursing, pharmacy, and dentistry. The project is sustainable and scalable, and will grow over the grant period to serve as a statewide model for interprofessional collaborative health care for underserved populations in an evolving delivery system and for training effective interprofessional care teams.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The third year of I-CAN began on July 1<sup>st</sup>, and starting with the fall term I-CAN will be expanding its operations to the neighborhoods of southeast Portland. The population focus there will be with immigrants and refugees, primarily from Sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Europe, and Asia. Partners in southeast Portland will include Asian Health and Service Center, Lutheran Community Services Northwest, and OHSU's Family Medicine at Richmond Clinic. Just as each I-CAN population is different, the southeast Portland neighborhoods will provide insight into unique health needs. A significant hurdle impacting this population is low English language proficiency. Students will be working closely with language interpreters locally and remotely through our mobile technology. ❖

*"Working with students from different professional backgrounds, we are able to apply our own knowledge towards a common goal and also learn from each other."*

-Pharmacy Student

## INTERPROFESSIONAL STUDENT TEAMS

190 students have participated in I-CAN to date, including 82 nursing students, 78 pharmacy students, 12 medical students, and 18 dental students, with several students choosing to participate for consecutive terms. Nursing and pharmacy students have term-long rotations, medical students have year-long rotations in Portland and five-week rotations in Medford, and dental students have one-week rotations. ❖

## AGENCY HIGHLIGHT

Neighborhood House was founded in 1905 to serve the needs of the immigrant community in South Portland, and today it is the longest running I-CAN partner in downtown Portland. With a staff of 96 and over 500 volunteers, Neighborhood House serves approximately 18,000 low-income children, families, and seniors each year in the greater Portland area. Although Neighborhood House has a range of programs serving early childhood, youth, families, and seniors, their focus in downtown has been on senior services. Through their downtown center, they provide educational, recreational, and social activities, transportation assistance, and operate a food box program, among many other services targeted towards isolated, disadvantaged, and underserved seniors. ❖

*"I think this experience has showed both the medical student and me just how important it is to build relationships with the other health care professionals we will be working with."*

-Pharmacy Student

## INCORPORATION OF TECHNOLOGY

Because the I-CAN project is community-based, mobile technology has been employed to allow the student teams to collect data in the field in a secure and confidential manner. Using iPads equipped with cellular network connectivity, teams are able to access and update patient documentation remotely, extending the reach of practice to vulnerable populations, including those experiencing limited mobility or social isolation. The technology is also utilized to connect remotely to language interpreters, providing access to a breadth of languages, increasing patient confidentiality, and decreasing project costs. ❖

*"Participating in I-CAN as a student is exciting because we are working as active members on the forefront of healthcare change and reform."*

- Nursing Student

## CONTINUATION AND EXPANSION

As part of I-CAN's commitment to sustainability, we have begun discussions of how to move forward after the end of the three-year grant period. We are actively talking about what is working, what is not working, what should continue, and what can be added. To help with these discussions, I-CAN recently met with Alex Lehr, a consultant from the National Nursing Centers Consortium. Alex's contributions to our sustainability conversations will help guide us in our evaluation and planning efforts as we assess the needs of new neighborhoods and identify new partnerships. Additionally, the I-CAN grant team recently met with several members of the National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education to discuss the work of the project and how it fits in with other interprofessional work around the country. Sustainability will be a focus in our upcoming quarterly NCAPP meetings in Old Town Portland and West Medford. ❖

## UPCOMING EVENTS



National League for Nursing  
2014 Education Summit

When: September 17<sup>th</sup> – September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Where: Phoenix, Arizona

Oregon Public Health Association  
70<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

When: October 13<sup>th</sup> – October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Where: Corvallis, Oregon

American Public Health Association  
142<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting and Exposition

When: November 15<sup>th</sup> – November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Where: New Orleans, Louisiana

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