

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.

CARE MANAGEMENT

The end of the winter term concluded the first full year of I-CAN's work with Oregon's disadvantaged and underserved communities. Some of the accomplishments achieved so far include:

- Enrolling participants in primary care, potentially decreasing ED usage.
- Assisting homeless participants with securing safe, affordable housing.
- Navigating complicated health insurance policies for participants in order to find appropriate care options.
- Providing health education to participants regarding alcohol and drug cessation.
- Helping participants to re-establish formal identification, a prerequisite for accessing many community resources.
- Accompanying participants to health care and related appointments. ❖

INTERPROFESSIONAL STUDENT TEAMS

120 students have participated in the I-CAN project since its inception, including 51 nursing students, 50 pharmacy students, 11 medical students, 7 dental students, and 1 public health student, with several students choosing to participate for consecutive terms. ❖

"Being a part of the program allowed me to see the type of work that CCOs around the state are doing to help care for patients outside of the clinic or hospital."

- Medical Student

AGENCY HIGHLIGHT

La Clinica was founded to serve the needs of the migrant and seasonal farm worker community in Jackson County, Oregon. In response to increasing need for affordable primary and preventive health care, they have expanded to serve the entire community, with a particular focus on those whose poverty impedes their ability to access care. Their core purpose is to empower people to live healthy lives through education, preventive health, and lifestyle choices.

“The I-CAN students have been nothing short of fantastic in the care of our patients. They have worked with our patients in a professional, gentle and knowledgeable way, and they are always well prepared for the task-at-hand.

The project has given us insight into our patients' lives that we would not have known otherwise. It has allowed us to better understand any barriers they may have preventing compliance with their health care recommendations.”

-Alma Elder, RN, La Clinica

“The time that I've spent in Old Town has helped to illustrate the depth of the poverty that many people live in every day and the challenges that they face because of that.

- Pharmacy Student

EXPLORING COMMUNICATION

As part of their Leadership course, I-CAN nursing students in Portland chose to focus on Central City Concern's Old Town Clinic for their Performance Improvement Project. Student observations found that Old Town Clinic had well-established procedures in place for communication between acute-care and primary care providers. In an effort to expand on this model, the students explored communication between primary-care providers and sub-acute care facilities. It is hoped that these efforts will positively impact the overall health outcomes of the Old Town Portland community by further improving continuity of care. ❖

UPCOMING EVENTS

Community Campus Partnerships for Health
13th International Conference
When: April 30th – May 3rd, 2014
Where: Chicago, Illinois

All Together Better Health VII
7th International Conference
When: June 6th – June 8th, 2014
Where: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



National Nursing Centers Consortium
2014 National Conference
When: June 9th, 2014
Where: Alexandria, Virginia

National League for Nursing
2014 Education Summit
When: September 17th – September 20th, 2014
Where: Phoenix, Arizona

NATIONAL CENTER FOR IPE

The National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education leads, coordinates, and studies the advancement of collaborative, team-based health professions education and patient care as an efficient model for improving quality, outcomes, and cost. By aligning the needs and interests of education with health care practice, they aim to create a new shared responsibility - or “Nexus” - for better care, added value, and healthier communities. Learn more at: www.nexusipe.org ❖

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