

**University of Connecticut Prevention Outreach Project (UCPOP)
University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, CT**

Final Project Report

1. Title/Focus for your IPE prevention initiative

University of Connecticut Prevention Outreach Project (UCPOP)

2. Goals you seek to achieve

Identify Hartford residents' prevention needs and work with the City of Hartford's Health and Human Services to identify priority areas and integrate UConn students into community prevention and education programming.

3. Progress to date

- Did your project proceeding as you had planned?
 - Yes
- Have you modified any elements of your project from your original plan?
 - Yes, we were able to pilot three community education programs but have not repeated them with interprofessional teams of students.
- Explain any unexpected outcomes from your project; positive, negative and other.
 - Data from National Primary Care Week (NPCW) community screenings very helpful in planning the 2008 NPCW community outreach and the community prevention and education sessions facilitated by UConn students September 24, 2008. Data is still be assessed about client and student participation.

Positives:

Data confirms that outreach activities like National Primary Care Week activities are valuable in promoting interprofessional education between 4 of the University's health professions schools (Medicine, Dental Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy). The total number of student and preceptor surveys collected in 2007 and 2008 equaled 171 (85 in 2007, 86 in 2008). Three key findings from the surveys were 1) the students valued the opportunity to work with students from different health disciplines 2) the students like they were active members of an interprofessional team and 3) the students valued the experience.

Over 770 clients participated in National Primary Care Week community screenings in 2007 and 2008 at 21 sites throughout Hartford, New Haven, Wethersfield and Willimantic. Data collected from clients in 2007 identified risk and health concerns which were then targeted in the 2008 NPCW community service activities.

In 2007 the top five priority concerns identified through the Client Survey include: 1) Environmental Health 2) Alcohol Abuse 3) Violence Prevention/Homicide 4) Asthma and 5) Dental. As a

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result of the data, health professions students enrolled in the four schools and the University's Urban Service Track participated in education and advocacy program to raise awareness of oral health needs among seniors and the relationship between oral health and overall health. The program was sponsored by the Connecticut Task Force on Oral Health for Older Adults partnered with a number of organizations including AARP, the Connecticut Department of Public Health, Connecticut Alzheimer's Association, etc. and will be held at the State Capitol on March 5, 2008.

As an outgrowth of the EAT Program, UConn students and faculty designed an on-line module to raise oral health awareness and education among students from the four health professions schools. The on-line module and distribution of kits with oral health products were added to the 2008 National Primary Care Week community service activities.

Negatives:

The 21 sites for NPCW screenings provided a real cross section of clients. Initial survey data in 2007 showed that a high percentage of respondents have insurance and report that their insurance covers a wide variety of conditions (i.e. emergencies, dental, medications and prescriptions, regular check-ups and vision care. This was not anticipated and may reflect bias as to which clients completed the voluntary survey. In order to engage a more diverse cross section of clients served, we need to identify and integrate an assessment tool for low literacy clients in our current Client Survey.

- On-going conversations have occurred with UCPOP Planning Committee members and City of Hartford's Health and Human Services Department on ways to utilize UConn health professions students for community outreach and education. A community education curriculum was developed and piloted by a 4th year medical student in late April and May 2008. More than 30 Hartford residents attended the community programs that focused on nutrition, hypertension and diabetes. We had hoped to engage Hartford residents in similar programs led by interprofessional teams of health professions students in September 2008 but have not been able to do so. We hope to offer this type of programming in Spring 2009 and include a component on oral health education utilizing Senior Smile Kits provided by the American Dental Association.

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- Which instructional strategies have worked best?
 - Pre-recording training modules for students involved in National Primary Care Week were important and showed the interprofessional collaboration since trainers were drawn from different disciplines.
 - Curriculum development for prevention education materials needs to adopt a multi-disciplinary approach. Students and faculty from the four schools are involved in the development and delivery of curriculum focused on patient care as evidenced by the clinical skills primers, video and on-line oral health module developed for 2008 NPCW activities.

- Are there any instructional strategies you would change? If yes, please explain.
 - Developing training modules is time, labor and cash intensive, especially when involving students and faculty from the four health professions schools. We will continue to use video conferencing as well as on-line modules to minimize the scheduling and distance issues between the four schools and two campuses. We need to make sure that all of our training opportunities incorporate a teach back function to ensure student knowledge.

4. Important decisions made (or contemplated)

- Based on what you have learned thus far, what would you have done differently?
 - In general, we are pleased with the progress of UCPOP. The IRB application took longer than expected and the surveys utilized in October 2007 were extremely important in identifying topics for community education programs and services provided by students at the 2008 NPCW community service sites.
 - We are hopeful that we can utilize the community education program curriculum to engage interprofessional teams of students in Spring 2009. We will need to work closely with the City of Hartford's Department of Health and Human Services to coordinate the location and publicity of these programs.

5. Lessons learned or new perspectives acquired so far

- Explain any unanticipated outcomes from your project, both positive and negative.
 - Data from the 2007 and 2008 National Primary Care Week community service activities confirms the value of interprofessional education and programming for UConn students. We need to make sure that all of the schools are represented at the planning, training and delivery stages of National Primary Care Week. Client data shows that we need to identify and incorporate a strategy for addressing, involving the low literacy client.

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- Given your experience thus far, would any other type of training or preparation have been helpful?
 - If future funding is available, it would be helpful to have APTR Projects present on the structure, outcomes and barriers to their respective projects. Learning from programs that have been successful (or not) would be helpful.

6. Challenges faced

Manpower. Coordinating prevention activities between the four schools and two campuses requires oversight and maintenance. We need to structure the prevention outreach activities so the City of Hartford Health and Human Services can populate the activities with UConn students in a systematic way that will ensure a constant flow of students from the four schools and help address the limitations of manpower at the 4 schools.

Geographic distance and scheduling issues between the two campuses and the City of Hartford at times created difficulty.

Language barriers. We tried to identify Spanish speaking students from both campuses so that students with language skills could be assigned at all outreach sites. We provided educational materials in both Spanish and English which doubled the amount of supplies brought to each site. If the City of Hartford could identify individuals who speak Spanish to accompany UConn students to primarily Spanish speaking sites, it would help reduce the language barrier between providers and clients.

7. Evaluation plans/instruments being used

UConn IRB application filed and approved by the University of Connecticut Health Center and UConn Storrs Campus. The Evaluation Plan has three components: 1) client survey 2) student participant survey 3) preceptor and community agency survey.

In 2007, 142 client surveys were collected, 75 student participant surveys, and 10 preceptor surveys collected as part of National Primary Care Week community outreach. In 2008, 92 client surveys were collected, 75 student participant surveys, and 11 preceptor surveys. Participant surveys from the community education programs were also collected.

8. Other items of interest to share

- Has your team participated in specific activities designed to help you work together more effectively? If yes, please explain.
 - We utilized video conferencing between the two campuses as part of the planning process. Video conferencing was utilized in 2007 and in 2008 UCPOP utilized video conferencing, as well as on-site hands-on clinical refreshers, video taped training modules (4) and an on-line oral health module.

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- What impact on the curricula at your institution do you anticipate will emerge as a result of your interprofessional prevention education initiative? Please explain:
 - The 2007 and 2008 National Primary Care Week community service activities are an excellent example of interprofessional prevention education and outreach between the two campuses, four schools and the City of Hartford. More than 150 students from the four schools participated in National Primary Care Week community outreach activities. Student and faculty representation from the four schools constituted a true cross-campus interprofessional endeavor. More than 750 clients were seen as part of this outreach activity and resource materials have been developed that will support future interprofessional education and teaming in the community.

Please share future plans you have for advancing interprofessional prevention education activities at your institution.

Faculty and students from the four schools will continue to provide leadership and input in building community education programs and activities with the City of Hartford's Department of Health and Human Services focused on health promotion and prevention.