Collaboration to Improve Regional Clinical Outcomes: Accelerating the Implementation of Evidence Based Practice

Susan Mace Weeks, DNP, RN, CNS, FNAP, FAAN
Dean, Harris College of Nursing and Health Sciences
Executive Director, Health Innovation Institute at TCU
Texas Christian University
Learner Objectives

1) Describe the use of collaboration to accelerate the implementation of evidence based practice.

2) Identify elements of the collaborative that have allowed competing entities to cooperate to improve care in the regional area.

Susan Mace Weeks (Texas Christian University) has no perceived conflicts of interest nor commercial support or sponsorship to disclose.
• Continued challenges in attaining desired patient outcomes
• Need for healthcare informed by evidence
• Challenging to achieve healthcare practice truly based on solid evidence
Challenges

- Knowledge explosion
- Push for transparency and quality
- Value based vs. volume based
- Desire for credentials (Magnet Recognition, Leapfrog, Baldrige, etc.)
Recognition of gap

- Healthcare organization needs
- Faculty knowledge and skills
- How to best connect?
TCU Center for Evidence Based Practice & Research

• Formed in 2006
• Funded by TCU internal grant
• Initial design focused on faculty consultation
• Dr. Alyce Schultz
• 6 presentations in 6 locations in 3 days
• Traffic jam spurs idea
• 20 regional nurse leaders in June 2007
• Now comprised of over 600 nurses in the Dallas-Fort Worth region
• Initial project – EBP Fellowship
Challenge: Participants are competitors

- Competitive collaborators or collaborating competitors
- Resolution: Focus on nursing practice & patient outcomes
- Use of grounding principles
TCU EBP Fellowship
• Year-long collaborative fellowship
• Seven day-long sessions
• Engage in EBP project on home unit
• Present poster presentation (oral presentation optional)
• Graduation ceremony serves as kick-off for next group
Every year since the fall of 2008
Typically have 50 – 60 participants each year
400 graduates
Serendipity: ongoing professional growth of EBP Fellows
• Broad community involvement from academia and practice
• Team that developed fellowship became faculty
• Evolving faculty over the years
• Paid a stipend for teaching, leadership, mentoring, etc.
• Keynote speaker each September
Year-long assessment by team of EBP Fellowship faculty and area Chief Nursing Officers

Positive evaluations by Fellows, Mentors, and Chief Nursing Officers

Project Implementation (over 83%)

- 64% at the unit or department level
- 19% at the organizational level
• Outcomes assessment project results being collated
• Identify project “clusters” for region-level projects
• Pilot Research Fellowship
Evidence Synthesis
• Evidence synthesis as essential component of EBP
• Evidence synthesis integral component of DNP curriculum
• Systematic Review Training pilot in 2008 with the Joanna Briggs Institute
Joanna Briggs Institute

- Based in the University of Adelaide (South Australia)
- International not-for-profit research and development center
- Global collaboration across more than 70 countries
- Tools and resources to support EBP
Collaboration with the Joanna Briggs Institute

• Fall 2008 – business plan developed
• Spring 2009 – application submitted and approved
• Summer 2009 – Systematic Review Train-the-Trainer course
• JBI Systematic Review Training integrated into DNP curriculum
• Blended Face-to-Face and Online format for DNP students
• Face-to-Face format for faculty and community partners
• Growing interest beyond our geographic area
• Robust Systematic Review Training Program
• Center Management Committee – inclusive of internal and external stakeholders
• Deputy Directors lead work for their focus areas
• Evidence Synthesis Groups
Future Ideas

- Interprofessional EBP Fellowship
- Leadership Fellowship
- Elevation from center to institute
  - Division of current portfolio → 2 centers
  - Connecting with existing centers of excellence within TCU
  - Formation of new centers of excellence
As of June 1, 2016

• Health Innovation Institute at TCU
  – Center for Translational Research
    • Dr. Dru Riddle
  – Center for Collaborative Practice
    • Dr. Linda Humphries
  – Center for Oncology Education and Research
    • Dr. Suzy Lockwood
  – Liink Center
    • Dr. Debbie Rhea
Strategies for successful academic-practice partnerships

- Presence & communication
- Trust
- Transparency
- Acknowledgement of competition
- Focus on the “right thing” (nursing practice & patient outcomes)
Questions?


Contact Information

Susan Mace Weeks
Texas Christian University
TCU Box 298620
Fort Worth, Texas 76129
USA

s.weeks@tcu.edu