

LAC Nurse Leader Mentorship Program Cohort #2 Projects

Jessica Adams, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, AGACNP-BC, CCRN-CMC

Project: Event-Based HIV Testing in Uganda

Adams worked with the Global Livingston Institute on its HIV awareness “iKnow” Concert Series which uses music and the arts to improve people’s health and well-being and promote the sustainability of community-based development initiatives in Uganda. Community leaders in Uganda identified HIV/Aids as a predominant issue. The iKnow concerts aim to inform community members who attend the events how and where to get tested and attack stigma head-on with local and national celebrities stressing that people can still live a long, healthy life while HIV positive. Organizers distribute thousands of condoms and teach people how to use them properly, demystifying their use and normalizing discussion around it. Free on-site rapid response testing also is offered. The first concert was held in 2014, and the efforts have grown each year since then. Services offered now include blood donations, cervical cancer screenings, male circumcisions, tetanus vaccinations and distribution of male and female condoms. In 2016, Adams reached out to local nursing students in cities where events were held, and those students assisted with HIV testing and other health services.

Enid Carrillo, BSN, RN

Project: Home Based Primary Care Nurse Charting

Through her project, Carrillo sought to improve timeliness communication of health plans within the interdisciplinary teams, improve timeliness of documentation entry by registered nurses and decrease delay in patient care. Through implantation of an HBPC charting template, nursing staff now has the ability to track and access data previously not captured. A 90-day chart audit showed significant improvements in timeliness of documentation. Staff now can monitor the quality and timeliness of documentation which will help in development of team planning.

Robin Huet, MSN, RN

Project: The Role of Organization Culture When Proposing Change

Redmond proposed to implement at least one project that would standardize procedures and workflows thereby changing the culture of the Department of Investigations to better fit within the agency’s vision and values. Her plan was to lead a task force of specially trained or qualified personnel to concentrate efforts on processing priority investigations. Through her work on this effort, she learned that when proposing or communicating change, leaders should utilize leadership tools such as role modeling, initiation of conversations, and expanding their knowledge bases so that they can better negotiate. Huet conducted an educational offering in December 2017 to the Louisiana State Board of Nursing Board members to share the processes, the vision, and the value of the Department of Investigations.

Jeannie Smith, RN, BSN, CMSRN

Project: Pre-Admit/Admit Readiness

Smith proposed that better coordination of patients’ pre-admission testing, review of labs / test prior to day before surgery; and assuring complete review of charts for all clearances, lab results and proper documentation from physician’s offices would decrease patient wait time and the number of cases being canceled due to chart / patient not being ready. Also this would provide a smoother transition from one department to the next which increases patient satisfaction, safety and quality of care. A new process was developed and staff members were trained in groups of 10 during one-hour sessions. Smith met with one or two physicians each day to educate them on the new process, and a proposal was presented to the chief nursing officer to approve an additional full-time employee for the Pre-Admission Testing Department. The new process resulted in a 15 percent decrease in cancelled cases day of surgery, increased patient satisfaction scores, improved patient safety and improved patient outcomes. Smith considers the new process to be a work in progress.

Antoinette Jefferson, RN, PhD

Project: Louisiana League of Nursing Exposure/Vision

Jefferson's project aimed to affect the awareness and engagement of Louisiana nurses in the Louisiana League of Nursing (LLN). The LLN is a constituent of the National League of Nursing, which promotes excellence in nursing education to build a strong and diverse nursing workforce to advance the health of our nation and the global community. Jefferson's project included performing a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) related to her efforts, planning a strategy to achieve greater recognition of the organization's benefits and recruit membership.