Southcoast Clinical Education Summit (SCCES) Project

Abstract
This innovative clinical education project for nurses in their second year of the Southwestern Oregon Community College (SOCC) nursing program was developed through the efforts of several health care agencies on the Southcoast and SOCC faculty. The project was supported with funding from the Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education.

The intent of the SCCES project was to provide nursing students with opportunities to interact with clients and their families who have a chronic health condition and have been identified as high users of health care system resources. The project had two main elements: student home visits with clients and student meetings with health care agency mentors. Mentors were selected by the health care agency and were experienced RN's who were knowledgeable about the health care system, the community and generally about the client's health condition. The project began in fall 2007 and continued through winter term 2008. However, work with the health care agencies to develop supportive information for mentors, identify client characteristics and review logistics of the project began in late spring 2007 and continued until fall 2008. A mentor orientation to the project was held at each health care facility and a website for mentors to access information and for communication with faculty was developed.

Students worked in pairs and were assigned a client to visit at the client's home. Students developed a plan of care as they met with the client and the family. Students emphasized identifying the goals of the client, providing the client with information and education about the client's chronic illness, and assisting the client with resource information on the services of the health care system, community resources, and the health care team. Students met with their mentors who assisted them in problem solving and information access. Students met formally with faculty each term to review their plan of care, issues and concerns about their interaction with their clients, and plans for their future meetings with both clients and mentors. In addition, faculty facilitated several group meetings with all students each term to discuss and review project implementation and expected outcomes. The project culminated with a one day conference in which students presented their experience in the SCCES project. Students were actively involved in the development of the presentation conference and helped determine the format and focus of the one day conference. Evaluation comments were obtained from mentors, clients, students and health care agencies at the end of the project.