Blending the Blues: A Duke AHEAD /UNC Interprofessional Collaborative

Meg Zomorodi, PhD, RN, CNL1; Poonam Sharma MD2; Mary Holtschneider, RN, BSN, MEd, MPA, NREMT-P, CPLP2; Diana McNeill MD, MACP2
1 The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; 2 Duke University

**Background**

Duke AHEAD and IPE4UNC, two interprofessional faculty groups have created a partnership, “Blending the Blues,” to engage faculty in interprofessional training and challenge their perspectives of teamwork and collaboration. This collaboration allows for an exciting opportunity to hold discussions regarding improving the health of populations and advancing health professions education, with the ultimate goal of improving health outcomes.

**Design**

The ‘Blending the Blues’ Collaborative was formed in May 2016 as an opportunity to put sports rivalry aside to collaborate and share best practices particularly for faculty teaching in the health professions. Interprofessional participants from Duke, UNC, and the VA Medical Center are part of this initiative.

March 2017: 60 health professionals attended a structured networking session. Participants brainstormed collaborative opportunities. At baseline, the majority of participants (n = 42) held a positive attitude towards IPP and IPE, yet only 3 respondents reported interprofessional collaboration with parties outside of their own institution.

Five months later, a follow up survey found that six respondents had joined an interprofessional initiative that they were not engaged in prior to the networking event. Four respondents reported involvement in inter-institutional interprofessional collaboration.

April 2017: 75 participants attended an interactive seminar “Interprofessional Team Building in Action” using a modified form of TeamSTEPPS.

April 2018: 72 participants attended an interactive faculty development session “Avoiding the Tragedy of Miscommunication at the End of Life”

February 2018: 85 participants attended a presentation by Drs. Barbara Brandt and Erin Fraher focused on transforming population health and IPE. Small groups came together to ‘pledge’ what the two institutions can do to resolve health issues.

**SCORE!**

- I will use the interprofessional resources from the Blending of the Blues to enhance patient care.
- Blending the Blues allows me to collaborate, network, and share different perspectives across the disciplines and across institutions.
- I will model these conversations and the skills learned today with learners in my clinic to improve patient care.
- I like that we are meeting more consistently and that it is a UNC/Duke/VA collaboration...both interprofessional AND interinstitutional.
- What a positive team of skilled experts! Excellent group support!
- Fantastic events...let's have more!