P1b: Paper – Education
Promoting Collaborative Mental Health in Primary Care through IPE Seminars for Learners - Lessons Learned

Saturday, March 13, 2010 10:45a.m. to 11:15a.m. 208/209 Hamilton Bldg

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The purpose of our paper is to describe two educational interventions to promote collaborative mental health services in primary care designed for family medicine residents, nursing and social work students.

Collaborative mental health care is not a fixed model or specific approach; rather, it is a concept that emphasizes the opportunities to strengthen mental health services in primary health care settings through interdisciplinary collaboration… which can involve better communication, closer personal contacts, sharing of clinical care, joint educational programs and/or joint planning (Canadian Collaborative Mental Health Initiative).

Responding to the mental health needs of clients/patients is a critical yet increasingly complex, component of primary health care. While, the potential range of practitioners involved in providing comprehensive, collaborative mental health care is wide – there are numerous barriers to authentic interprofessional collaboration and little formalized training to support working effectively as a team.

We will discuss two seminars designed for family medicine residents, advanced social work and nursing students piloted at Women’s College between October 2009 and March 2010. The purpose of the educational interventions was to increase participants’ understanding of women’s mental health issues, as well as increase understanding of collaborative and team-based practice. Building on the work of the Centre for IPE at the University of Toronto as well as the initiatives of the Canadian Collaborative Mental Health Initiative, we will discuss teaching/learning strategies used, challenges, feedback from participants, as well as facilitator and faculty reflections.

Mental Health is a core component of primary care but there is limited material on the development and implementation of effective IPE interventions for learners and/or practitioners. Similarly, while a collaborative team-based approach is increasingly recognized as important to patient centered care, there are numerous challenges