

Preparing the Future Public Health Nursing Workforce: Synopsis of a symposium between academia and practice

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BACKGROUND

Public health nurses play a critical role in building a culture of health in the communities they serve. Their potential to impact the overall health of communities through effective systems and population health strategies is significant. Schools of Nursing provide the education and preparation to help shape the future public health nursing workforce to function in this important role. However, there is a shortage of clinical sites in local public health jurisdictions for nursing students enrolled in a baccalaureate and higher degree nursing programs.

To address this shortage, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, together with the California Action Coalition, *HealthImpact*, the California Association of Colleges of Nursing, and the California Directors of Public Health Nursing, hosted a symposium in May 2016 to bring together nursing academia and practice to share and learn from one another innovative approaches to educate and train the future public health nursing workforce in California.

The symposium brought together various leaders in public health nursing education and practice. During the APHA presentation, the symposium design will be shared along with the evaluation results and lessons learned.

SYMPOSIUM GOALS

The symposium aimed to share, learn and promote leading-edge methods in the following areas:

- Clinical placements that foster the practice of health promotion and population health
- Capacity building strategies to develop high quality non-traditional clinical sites
- Curriculum and faculty development activities to advance education and practice
- Collaborative projects that incorporate individual, community, or systems level practice

CONTENT AND PARTICIPANTS

The symposium included a call for abstracts and resulted in nine oral presentations and nine poster presentations. The program highlighted innovative work that promote the experiences of public health nursing students.

During the poster session, presenters from several Schools of Nursing (SON) shared their approaches to enhancing the clinical experiences of public health nursing students:

- Benefits of simulation activities to teach economic barriers of clients through role-play, and to identify the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed before, during and after home visitation of clients
- Curriculum development to meet the educational needs of students, and reduce burden on practice
- Collaboration with community-based organizations to provide health promotion and educational services to populations of interest

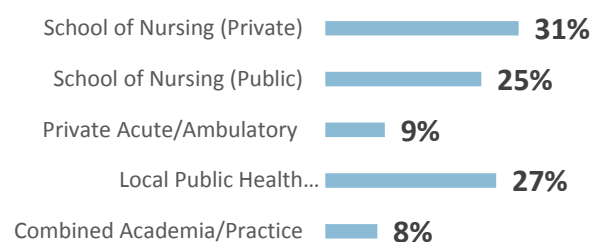
The oral presentation session focused on collaborative academic-practice partnership programs that contribute to preparing public health nursing students:

- Local Public Health Department's (PHD) University-sponsored clinical rotation program that provides comprehensive experiences in traditional (PHN/student) and non-traditional (student/PHD Programs) settings, clinical coordination, and an option to use a DNP-prepared PHN as Adjunct Instructor
- Leveraging practice-community relationships to build and secure non-traditional clinical sites that provide opportunities to incorporate community level practice
- Academic-community collaboration to identify community needs, and implement and evaluate evidence-based programs to enhance community emergency preparedness

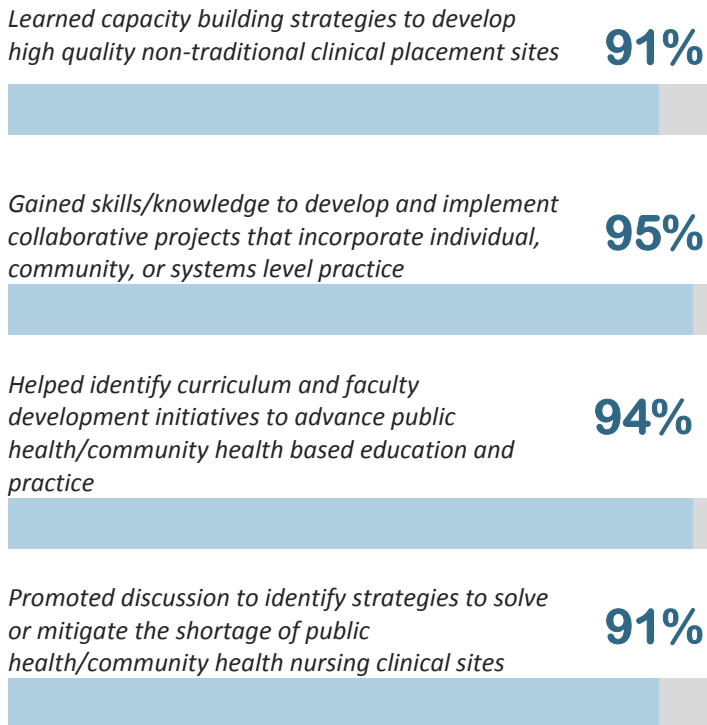
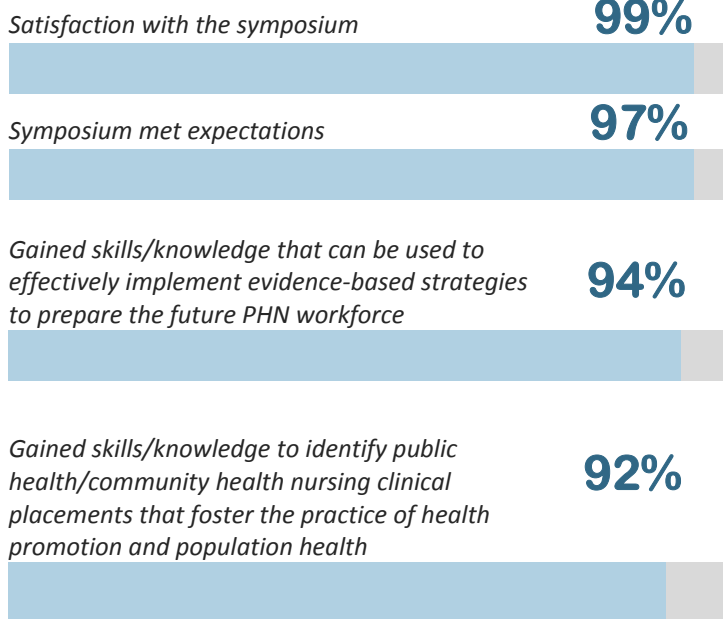
RESULTS

The all-day symposium was designed and implemented by a core group that comprised of representatives from Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, the California Action Coalition – Health Impact, the California Association of Colleges of Nursing, and the California Directors of Public Health Nursing. Symposium attendees represented both private and public academic and practice settings.

Represented Academia and Practice Settings (N=92)



Participants overwhelmingly agreed or strongly agreed:



NEXT STEPS

The symposium was successful in providing a platform where participants shared and learned from one another. Further discussion and similar events are necessary to continue the work in enhancing the education and practice of future Public Health Nurses. Participants shared the following recommendations:

- Support efforts to align CA PHN certification requirements with the American Nurses Association’s Public Health Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice, Second Edition
- Incorporate the American Association of Colleges of Nursing’s Recommended Baccalaureate Competencies and Curricular Guidelines for public health nursing early in the BSN program
- Include primary prevention and population health components into RN generic-level curriculum programs – “Public Health-mindset” in all nursing rotations and roles
- Address the salary disparities that exist between faculty, practice and acute care as a means to recruit and impact the shortage of experienced and prepared public health nursing faculty
- Explore other opportunities to develop platforms where PHN practice and academia can communicate their needs

