Oral Defense Announcement
University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Nursing Practice with an emphasis in Leadership in Population Health & Healthcare Systems

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Human Trafficking Victim Identification Among Nurse Practitioner Students During Objective Structured Clinical Examinations

Date: March 19th, 2019
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: College of Nursing Building, Room 117

Abstract
Problem: Human trafficking (HT) is a significant worldwide and domestic issue affecting all ages, races, and genders resulting in over 40 million victims globally. Nurse practitioners (NP) often unknowingly come into contact with victims of HT, however, few NP’s have had formal education on the topic and may fail to recognize signs and risk factors. The purpose of this study was to initiate HT training for NP students.

Methods: A quality improvement (QI) initiative for a university college of nursing (CON) utilizing a prospective, observational, descriptive, cohort design. A plan-do-study-act (PDSA) methodology was implemented. A written case study given before an educational session and an objective structured clinical exam (OSCE) after the educational session involving a victim of HT were evaluated.

Results: Grading rubrics for the pre-education written case study were compared to the grading rubrics of the post-education OSCE’s. A paired samples t-test found statistical significance (p <0.05) in score improvement between the pre-education written case study and the post-education OSCE, indicating awareness and recognition of a potential HT victim occurred.

Implications: Including HT education in an NP curriculum assisted students to become aware of and recognize signs and indicators of HT. Written case studies and use of an OSCE were an effective means for evaluating learning. As NP’s graduate and begin to practice, further study on their awareness, ability to recognize risk factors and indicators, and providing assistance to victims of HT is recommended.

Defense of Dissertation Committee
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