

Lafayette Transitional Housing Center (Lafayette, IN)

Developing Health and Wellness in the Homeless Population

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INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

The Center for Health Equity and Innovation (CHEqI) at Purdue University College of Pharmacy partnered with Lafayette Transitional Housing Center (LTHC) to develop an internship position to expose students to community engagement in underserved populations. The LTHC internship allows students to expand and assist in the implementation of health and wellness in a population experiencing homelessness. Responsibilities of the position included adopting an electronic health record system to better understand the needs of the community, designing a plan to install a tobacco cessation program, and providing more support and assistance on healthcare-related topics to the guests of LTHC.



OBJECTIVES

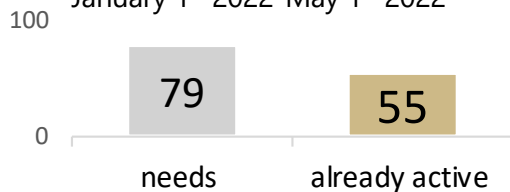
Identify opportunities for improvement of the electronic health record system-based needs

Utilize the Tobacco grant to implement tobacco cessation at LTHC

Promote education on health-related topics and procedures

Guests with a Primary Care Provider

January 1st 2022-May 1st 2022



METHODOLOGY

Electronic Health Record

- Worked to close the gaps in care identified in the health assessments.
- Performed health assessment, gathering guest's medical history, current medications, and substance use
- Imported assessment into Health call and produced reports to answer the following questions:
 - Does the guest have a primary care provider?
 - Does the guest have health insurance?
 - Is the guest interested in substance abuse or mental health services?
 - Does the guest have all their medications?

Health Moments

- Reached out to community partners through email and previous LTHC connections
- Asked these partners to present their topics of expertise and provide advice
- Created brochures with information and each health topic and resources in the area that were affordable and accessible
- Provided snacks and goodie bags to engage guests such as a first aid kit for the First Aid Health presentation

Tobacco Cessation

- Acted in developing a workflow specific for the population at hand.
- Attended monthly trainings to learn how to productively address cessation and promote quitting with a population in a cycle of struggle.
- Connected with guest interested in cessation and utilized these strategies to generate a quit date.

Health Moment Presentations	Community Partner
Reproductive Health	Purdue APhA-ASP Reproductive Health Committee
First Aid	Phoenix Paramedics Riggs Community Health
Dental Care	Riggs Dental Care Purdue Dental Assisting Student
Harm Reduction	Tippecanoe County Health Department Gateway to Hope
Diabetes Management	Franciscan Alliance

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Jodie Hicks, LTHC Health and Wellness Community Worker

IMPACTS

Electronic Health Record

- Communicated with the guests and helped them improve their health by closing the gaps in care identified in the health assessments.
- Collaborated with guests to find health care providers and scheduled appointments.
- Initiated twenty Medicaid applications and provided locations where their insurance is accepted
- Created delivery plans with Genoa Pharmacy to eliminate the barriers in transportation to the pharmacy

Health Moments

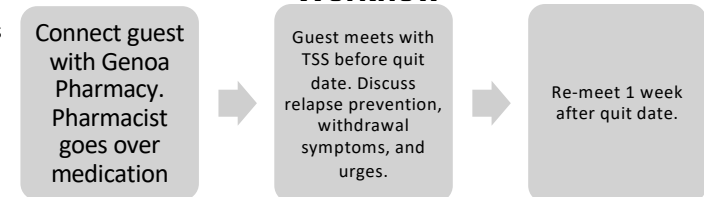
- Allowed guests to further understand their health
- Coordinated guest speakers for biweekly presentations
- Educated guests with the intention of preventing future health complications
- Promoted the opportunity for guests to be proactive about their health.

Tobacco Cessation

- Created a tobacco cessation workflow to promote to quit tobacco use.
- Fostered resources for those interested as well as though not interested
- Offered support and guidance to guest as they navigate their health and aspirations for themselves.

Actionable Section of Tobacco Cessation

Workflow



REFLECTION & CONCLUSION

Overall, the internship involved adaptivity and problem solving. This population constantly faces turnover with guests arriving and departing every day. Each guest holds hidden barriers such as mental illness, emotional and physical trauma, and cognitive delays. A systemic issue lies in the barriers to care. The internship position allowed me to minimize the barriers by overcoming their specific challenges. I built connections with guests to better understand and ensure they knew their health mattered. This role required dedication, empathy, and critical thinking but ultimately, taught me the importance of looking beyond the clinical setting in addressing barriers to care.