



Capital Area Community Nursing Network (CACNN)

Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2022

Zoom Meeting

Participants

Jason Blanks, CAHA

Betsy Burger, LCC

Sue Cook, ERMCC

Natalie Gottschalk, CAHA

Jeanette Klemczak, Healthcare Consultant

Marci Mechtel, MSU CON

Shannon Scott, LCC

1. **Welcome & Introductions.** Dr. Marci Mechtel led the meeting and welcomed attendees.
2. **Approval of Minutes.** The meeting minutes from October 12, 2022, were approved.
3. **Follow-Up Group Discussion on “Scope of Disparities.”** At a previous CACNN meeting, Cristin Larder, Senior Community Epidemiologist at Ingham County Health Department, reviewed (1) health disparity information from the Healthy! Capital Counties Community Health Assessment and Improvement Planning Process, (2) Ingham County COVID-19 statistics by race/ethnicity, and (3) Ingham County social determinants of COVID-19 disparities. Attendees continued discussing their experiences with social determinants of disparities and indicators of concern.

CMHA-CEI is working to establish a new crisis stabilization unit for the Capital Area, and CMHA-CEI has met with MSU’s College of Nursing and LCC’s Health and Human Services Division for collaborative opportunities regarding this expansion of mental health services. People of color are inordinately burdened with mental health issues, and there is an overall access issue. LCC HHS is interested in having its students do clinicals at the unit and is looking into what courses focusing on mental health could be added to the curriculum for interested students. In addition, the LCC EMS program is considering adding a rotation at the crisis stabilization unit, since an EMS provider is often the first person on the scene when a person is experiencing a mental health crisis. MSU CON is interested in having its Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Program students rotate through clinicals at the crisis stabilization unit.

The State of Michigan is trying to address social determinants of disparities by requiring Implicit Bias Training. Marci Mechtel noted that disparities are very pronounced in the pediatrics field, pointing out the differences between underserved populations in local school districts. She described a poverty event in one classroom to bring home this idea, where students go through a scenario of having limited funds to spend on their families and then reflecting on the activity.

MSU is moving to a holistic admissions process, looking at the whole applicant rather than simply their GPA, including essays, references, and interviews. MSU faculty/staff received training in the process, though a new challenge will be AI technology such as ChatGPT that can write essays.

Attendees further commented about the use of AI and virtual reality in classrooms, and Sue Cook added that ERMCC is welcoming students for clinical observations.

Finally, attendees noted the uptick in RSV cases in children and that, not only are symptoms longer-lived and more severe, but there seems to be a disparity between the race/ethnicity of children that contract RSV.

After this discussion, attendees considered what could be done with the scope of disparities information provided. Suggestions included: CAHA offering a training module (similar to, or in conjunction with, the CMEs it offered last year) about how the data is being utilized, increasing awareness of related resources available in the community, and learning what the mental health network is doing with regarding to developing the crisis stabilization unit. Possible speakers on these topics included ICHD or CMHA-CEI.

4. Roundtable Discussion.

- a. Marci Mechtel, MSU College of Nursing. Interim Dean Leigh Small has been appointed as the new dean of the MSU College of Nursing. The next position MSU CON is looking to fill is an Associate Dean for College Performance and Professional Learning, and Marci is co-chairing the search committee. Regarding students, about 40 new nurses will be graduating in December, and most already have jobs. About 80 new nursing students will start in the spring. To help keep new graduates in the Greater Lansing area, MSU CON is piloting a partnership with Sparrow – and possibly McLaren – in which students apply to be in the clinical group, progress through their competencies, and are then employed by Sparrow after graduation.
- b. Betsy Burger and Shannon Scott, LCC. Incoming students include 55 in the traditional route and 24 in the advanced standing track. To help combat the local nursing shortage, both McLaren and Sparrow recruit at LCC annually, and students are hired as LPNs and then get into RN positions right after graduation. Some students are also in school full-time and working at Sparrow as PC techs for 20 hours per week with benefits on the condition that, once they graduate, they commit to a certain number of years at Sparrow. In addition, LCC can apply for \$2 million from the Fiscal Year 2023 state budget to fund the Michigan Associate Degree in Nursing to Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, in collaboration with a four-year public university. LCC would appreciate CAHA's support in that venture.

5. Next CACNN Meeting: February 8, 2023, 11:00am – 12:30pm (via Zoom)