# Working in Partnership to Increase Nursing Students Exposure to the Role of CHNs May 2011

#### **Presenters**

Cindy Versteeg RN MScN CCHN(C) Algonquin College, Ottawa Sandra McCormick MHS Saint Elizabeth Health Care, Ottawa Elizabeth Ryan RN Ottawa Public Health, Ottawa

#### **Partners**







**Ottawa Public Health** 

**Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario** 

# Goals for our presentation

- To share with you our success story
- To describe an innovative strategy to expose nursing students to a variety of community health nursing roles
- To describe the partnerships, process and results of an alternative clinical experience offered to 3<sup>rd</sup> year BScN students





Ultimate goal: building capacity for community health nursing's workforce for tomorrow

#### Literature Review

- Significant changes in Canadian health system
- Shift from hospital and illness based care to community and health based care (CHNIG, 2010)
- ▶ 1996–2005:2.5% increase in community nurses
- ▶ 17% of RNs currently working in community (Underwood, 2009))
- Future sees over 60% of RNs practicing in community (CNA, Vision 2020)
- Concerns with inadequate preparation of BScN students with focus on acute care



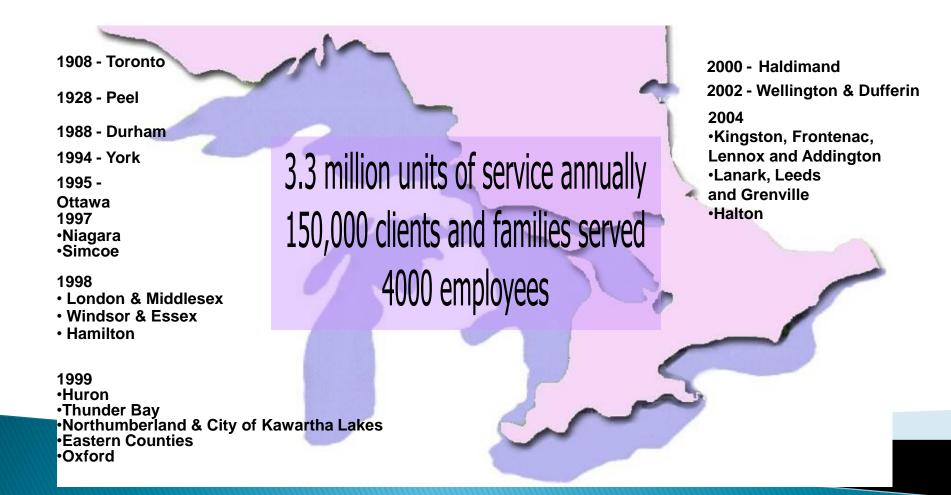
#### Where did it all start?

- Collaborative BScN Program
- Curriculum revision
- Decreased CHN credits
- Now 4<sup>th</sup> year
- Consolidation requests

#### **NEW Curriculum**

- ▶ 1<sup>st</sup> yr DOH but no nursing
- ▶ 2<sup>nd</sup> yr Intro to Nursing Practice
  - HP in schools, senior wellness in malls, LTC
- ▶ 3<sup>rd</sup> yr institution focus
  - Pediatrics, childbearing, acute care & mental health
- 4<sup>th</sup> yr CHN theory + 12 day project based practicum with population focus

#### Saint Elizabeth Health Care



#### Innovative Collaborative Approach

- Training leading to meaningful jobs
- Responsive to future home health care needs



CCAC

- Creative HHR solution
- Service funding
- Accountability to meet needs of clients









Child & Family





Service Provider Organization



**SUPERIOR OUTCOMES** 

- Staffing
- Responsiveness to innovation
- Right service / right time
- Knowledge to Action

# Partner's Perspectives



- Our opportunity to expose nursing students to community health positions
- Future potential to staff in the expanding community health field
- Create mentorship opportunities for our nurses outside of the organization (fostering benevolence/volunteerism)



#### **Process**

- Establish partnerships in community
- Determine process for students and organizations
- Instructor orientation
- Fall options
  - Sign up forms
  - 3311\Algo Alternative Experiences St Eliz Nov 2010–18.docx
  - HBHC placements\_PHNs\_Students\_November\_2 .docx
  - CHEO\CHEO Clinics Nov-Dec 2010as of Nov 18.docx
  - Consent
  - Instructor permission



- Changes for winter and options
  - Online sign up ..\..\2 Winter 2011\Alternative Experiences Winter 2011.docx

## Results



FALL 2010 n=80 visits	# of students
Saint Elizabeth Clinic	11
Saint Elizabeth Schools	2
Saint Elizabeth Home visits	15
CHEO Outpatient Clinics	37
Ottawa Public Health	15

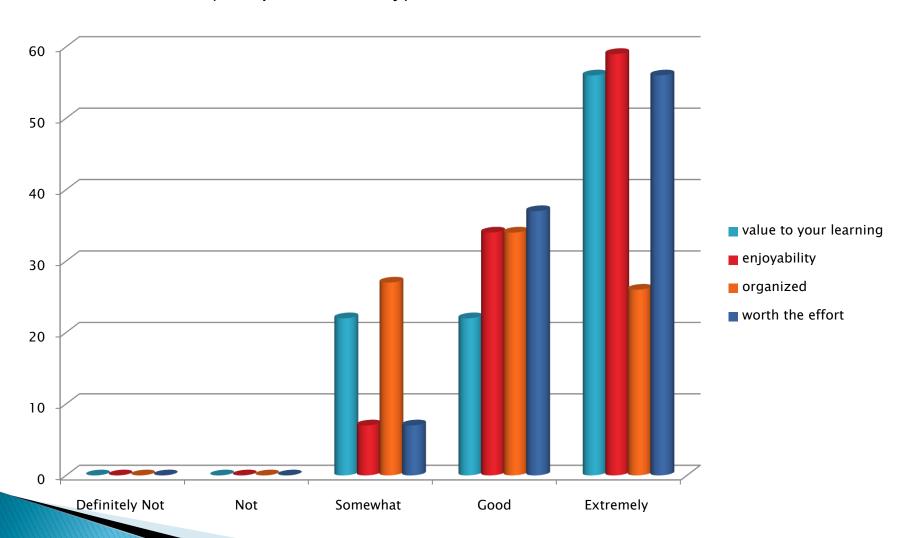
WINTER 2011 n=11 visits	# of students
Carefor Clinics	6
Carefor Homevisits	5

91/144

63%

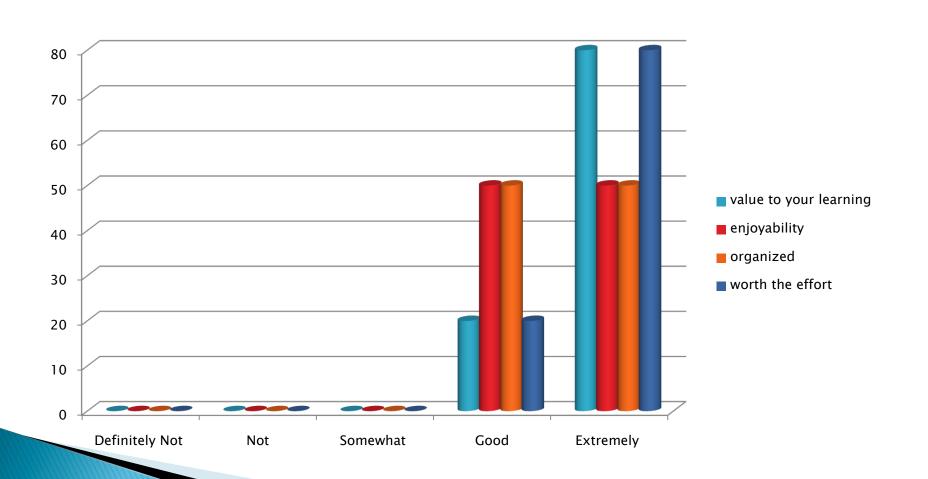
#### Student Feedback.....Good to extremely good

Fall 2010 n=27/80 (completed survey)



#### Student Feedback.....Good to extremely good

Winter 2011 n=10/11 (completed survey)



# When asked the best thing about the experience

- Having the opportunity to broaden my perspective on NSG. I didn't know nurses did this type of work.
- It gave me an idea what other options there are for nurses that doesn't involve a hospital setting.
- With the diversity of opportunities in nursing, I feel these experiences helped open our eyes to the many opportunities we do have in this profession.

#### Student Feedback

- I was really amazed by how different the setting was in a public health role. I loved seeing that side of nursing, because before this experience I never thought I would have any interest in public health nursing. This experience has definitely changed my perspective on this field of nursing.
- Going to the homeless shelter! I never would have had the chance to interact with that community population otherwise.

#### Student Feedback

- I had a better look at central lines and not just simulation in the lab, getting the exposure to a wide variety of diseases from all walks of life.
- I observed so many things in one day (more than I have in a full acute care rotation)! Picc cleaning and removal, portable chemo treatment, abscesses, wound care, ulcers etc. I think what really made the difference was the openness of the staff to my presence and their willingness to include me in everything as well as answer all questions I had for them.
- I felt that the nurses there were absolutely welcoming of a student, willing to teach and challenge me and I would absolutely recommend it

# Student's Suggestions given for improving the experience.

The organization from the level of the college was confusing, needs better communication in terms of number of placements, timing and a better sign-up system

I didn't choose any because we were told they were a waste of time and they took away a day from your hospital experience

### Organization's Feedback



- We welcomed the opportunity to provide learning opportunities for Algonquin nursing students
- Community care is our life, we want to share all of the benefits of community vs. acute care settings
- "We don't eat our young at Saint Elizabeth"
- The students were awesome!

#### Lessons Learned

- Advance meeting with service providers regarding student desires & schedules
- More discussion up front with the clinical instructors
- Having full 8 hr experience
- Continue using online sign-up to assist in organizational set up







#### **Future Directions**

- Working with collaborative curriculum committee to have a compulsory component in at least one of the 3<sup>rd</sup> yr courses or 4<sup>th</sup> yr acute care course
- Include a reflection component to the experience
- Work to ensure home health nursing is promoted in the BScN program
- Continue to work collaboratively with our partners
- Encourage students to choose community based and home health for their preceptorship

Ultimate goal: building capacity for community health nursing's workforce for tomorrow

# Acknowledgements

Elizabeth Ryan Ottawa Public Health

Julie Milks Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario

> Marilyn Hollingsworth Carefor Carefor Ottawa



& all the many RNs that mentored the students

# Questions?

# Thank you for coming today

#### **Contact Infromation**

- Cindy Versteeg
  verstec@algonquincollege.com
- Sandra McCormick
- sandramccormick@saintelizabeth.com