

## Ideals of Community Health Nursing: Our Daily Bread or Pie-in-the-Sky?

Em M. Pijl-Zieber BScN, PhD Candidate, RN  
University of Lethbridge, Alberta  
em.pijlzieber@uleth.ca

## The Rhetoric/Ideals

- At all levels of:
  - Health governance
  - Nursing's regulatory bodies
  - Undergraduate nursing curricula
- Not consistently implemented at the policy, profession, or individual level

## Rhetoric vs. Reality

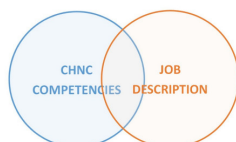
- "...In the years to come there will be an increased focus on addressing the determinants of health and on health promotion, and greater collaboration across sectors and health disciplines to enable health for all, although not as a replacement for illness care and supportive care which will remain a priority..."

## Rhetoric vs. Reality

- Downstream, acute care is the focus (Cunningham & Sammut, 2012)
- Fiscal austerity—stealing from Peter to pay Paul
- Lack of government-endorsed infrastructure
- Ideals are out of reach on a daily basis (Ladhani, Stevens, & Scherpblier, 2014)

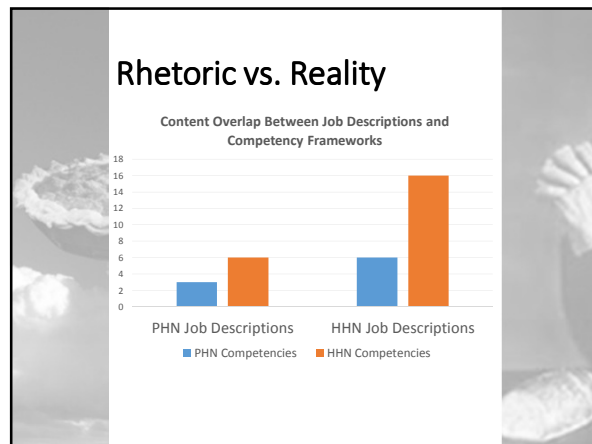
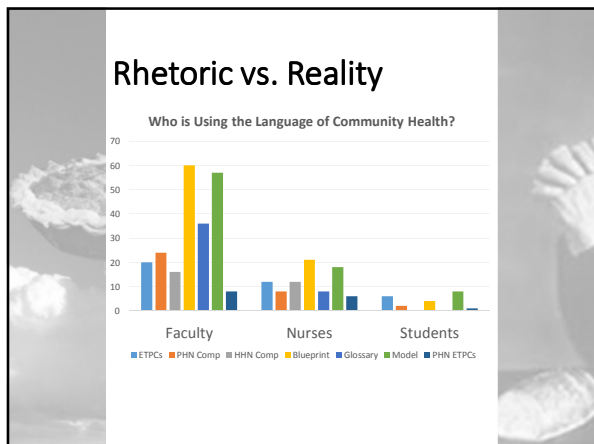
## Rhetoric vs. Reality

- Competencies for community health areas are delineated clearly (Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing, 2014; Community Health Nurses of Canada, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2016)
  - Are they trickling down to practice?
  - Are they supported in role descriptions? (Hemingway, Aarts, Koskinen, Campbell, & Chassé, 2013; Ladhani, Stevens, & Scherpblier, 2014; Polivka, Valedes Chaudry, and Jones, 2014; Royal College of Nursing, 2012a; Schofield et al., 2011)



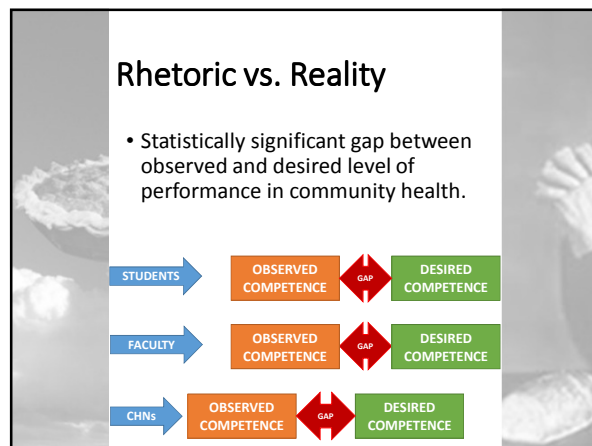
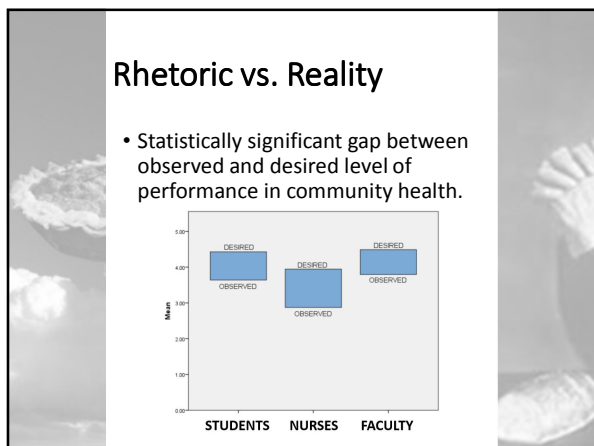
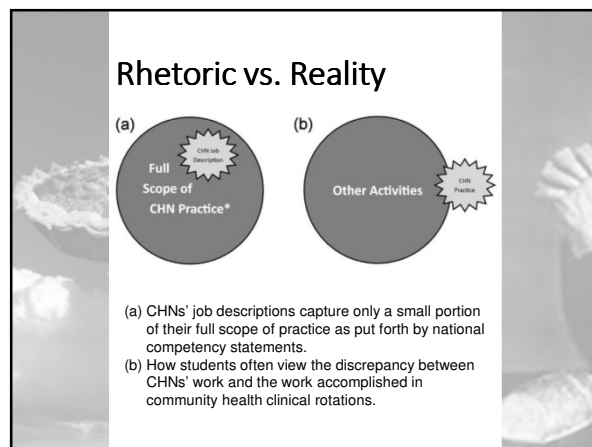
## Rhetoric vs. Reality

- The language of community health: on the ground versus ideals
  - Content analysis:
    - ETPCs
    - CASN Quality Placements
    - PHN Competencies
    - HHN Competencies
    - CHNC Blueprint for Action
    - CHNC Glossary
    - CHNC Practice Model
    - CPHA PHN Roles
    - CHN Exam Competencies
    - PHN ETPCs
    - Requisite Skills and Abilities



### Rhetoric vs. Reality

- Are students being prepared for community health nursing practice roles through their undergraduate experiences?
  - Should they be?
  - How? Individual care, population health? Should the work in which students engage resemble *future* or *present* role realities?
  - Community *health* nursing versus community *based* nursing (Cohen & Gregory, 2009)



## Rhetoric vs. Reality

- Different perspectives among CHNs, CH faculty, and senior nursing students, on:
  - What it means to be ready for community health practice
  - The role of the CHN clinical experience
  - The nature of foundations for CH practice
  - The future of nursing practice
- Do the ideals of community health divide us or do they unite us?

## The Questions

- Are CHN ideals the substance of community health nurses' work?
- To what degree are the ideals attainable in a climate of fiscal restraint?
- Do CHN ideals place an unfair burden on community health nurses, who lack the administrative power and resources to enact the rhetoric in daily practice?

## The Questions

- Do CHN ideals place an unrealistic expectation on new nurses, who expect to participate in this work within a system that is currently not amenable to it?
- Does BN education today prepare graduates who can work in existing, traditional community health roles, or is today's graduate being prepared for a health care system that has yet to materialize?

## The Questions

- What will be the impact of the NCLEX-RN exam on community health content in Canadian curricula?

## Taking the Lead

- Time for curriculum renewal and examination in Canada
- Time to evaluate nurses' role in community health
- Time to enhance communication between academe and practice (CH)
  - What is meant by "community care"?
  - Are we preparing nursing graduates for both current realities *and* future possibilities?

## Taking the Lead

- Are we where we need to be?
- Are we living up to our ideals?
- Can we accept the risks associated with challenging the status quo?

## Acknowledgements

- Thank you to the Community Health Nurses of Canada, Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing, and Canadian Nurses Association
- Thank you to WNRCSN for partially funding my graduate study on students' readiness to practice in community health areas

Thank You!

## References

- Betsy, K. (2012). Clinical practice placements in the community: A survey to determine if they reflect the shift in healthcare delivery from secondary to primary care settings. *Nurse Education Today*, 32(1), 21-26. doi: 10.1016/j.nedt.2011.01.010.
- Boutain, D. M. (2008). Social justice as a framework for undergraduate community health clinical experiences in the United States. *International Journal of Nursing Education Scholarship*, 5(35). doi: 10.2202/1548-923X.1419.
- Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing. (2010). Achieving Public Health Competencies in Nursing School Graduates: Research Report. Mississauga, ON.
- Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing. (2011). Position Statement: Baccalaureate Education and Baccalaureate Programs (pp. 4). Ottawa, ON: Author.
- Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing. (2014). Entry-to-Practice Public Health Nursing Competencies for Undergraduate Nursing Education.
- Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing Sub-Committee on Public Health. (2010). Guidelines for quality community health nursing clinical placements for baccalaureate nursing students Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing.
- Canadian Nurses Association [CNA]. 2008. CNA's Preferred Future: Health for All. Author, Ottawa, ON.
- Cohen, B. E., & Gregory, D. (2009). Community health clinical education in Canada: part 1 - "state of the art". *International Journal of Nursing Education Scholarship*, 6(1), 1-17. doi: 10.2202/1548-923X.1637
- Community Health Nurses of Canada [CHNC]. 2009. *Public Health Nursing Discipline Specific Competencies, Version 1.0*. Toronto: Author.
- Community Health Nurses of Canada [CHNC]. 2010. *Home Health Nursing Competencies, Version 1.0*. Underwood and Associates; Innovative Solutions Health Plus, Toronto: Author.

## References

- Cunningham, P., & Sammut, J. (2012). Inadequate acute hospital beds and the limits of primary care and prevention. *Emergency Medicine Australasia*, 24(5), 566-572.
- Dean, E. (2010). Pressure on universities to find more community placements. *Nursing Standard*, 24(52), 12-13.
- Her Majesty's Government, & Department of Health. 2006. Our Health, Our Care, Our Say: A New Direction for Community Services. National Health Service (Ed.).
- Hemingway, A., Aarts, C., Koskinen, L., Campbell, B., & Chassé, F. (2013). A European Union and Canadian Review of Public Health Nursing Preparation and Practice. *Public Health Nursing*, 30(1), 58-69. doi: 10.1111/j.1525-1446.2012.01046.x
- Hjalmlult, E., Haaland, G. U., & Litland, A. S. (2012). Importance of public health nurses precepting students in clinical practice: A qualitative study. *Nurse Education Today*, 33(6), 431-435. doi: 10.1016/j.nedt.2012.09.004
- Institute of Medicine. 2011. *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*. A Report of the Committee on the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Initiative on the Future of Nursing. Washington, DC: National Academic Press.
- International Council of Nurses [ICN]. 2003a. *ICN Framework of Competencies for the Generalist Nurse: Report of the Development Process and Consultation*. Geneva: Author.
- International Council of Nurses [ICN]. 2003b. *An Implementation Model for the ICN Framework of Competencies for the Generalist Nurse*. Geneva: Author.
- Keller, L. O., Schaffer, M. A., Schoon, P. M., Brueshoff, B., & Jost, R. (2011). Finding common ground in public health nursing education and practice. *Public Health Nursing*, 28(3), 261-270. doi: 10.1111/j.1525-1446.2010.00906.x
- Ladhani, Z., Scherpbier, A. J., & Stevens, F. C. J. (2012). Competencies for undergraduate community-based education for the health professions: a systematic review. *Medical Teacher*, 34(9), 733-743. doi: 10.3109/0142159X.2012.700742

## References

- Ladhani, Z., Stevens, F. J., & Scherpbier, A. J. (2014). Does community health care require different competencies from physicians and nurses? *BMC Medical Education*, 14, 1-1. doi: 10.1186/s132-6920-14-1
- National Expert Commission. (2012). The Health of our Nation, the Future of our Health System: A Nursing Call to Action. In N. E. Commission [Ed.]. Ottawa, ON: Canadian Nurses Association.
- Polivka, B. J., Valesdes Chaudry, R., & Jones, A. (2014). Congruence Between Position Descriptions for Public Health Nursing Directors and Supervisors With National Professional Standards and Competencies. *Journal of Public Health Management & Practice*, 20(2), 224-235. doi: 10.1097/PHH.0b013e31829a2af
- Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations. 2011. *Competencies for Public Health Nurses*. Washington, DC: Public Health Foundation.
- Schofield, R., Ganam, R., Brooks, S., McGugan, J., Dalla Bona, K., Betker, C., . . . Watson, C. (2011). Community Health Nursing Vision for 2020: Shaping the Future. *Western Journal of Nursing Research*, 33(8), 1047-1058. doi: 10.1177/019394910375819
- Reimer Kirkham, S., van Hofwegen, L., & Hoe Harwood, C. (2005). Narratives of social justice: learning in innovative clinical settings. *International Journal of Nursing Education Scholarship*, 2(26), 1-14. doi: 10.2202/1548-923X.1166
- Royal College of Nursing. 2012a. *The Community Nursing Workforce in England*. Cardiff, Wales: Author.
- Royal College of Nursing. 2012b. *Quality with Compassion: the Future of Nursing Education*. Report of the Willis Commission. Cardiff, Wales: Author.

## References

- Underwood, J., Deber, R. B., Baumann, A. O., Dragan, A., Laporte, A., Alameddine, M., & Wall, R. (2009). Demographic Profile of Community Health Nurses in Canada 1996 - 2007. Hamilton, Ontario: Nursing Health Services Research Unit and Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Online: [www.ohsu.com](http://www.ohsu.com)
- Valaitis, R. K., Rajsic, C. J., Cohen, B., Leeseberg Stamer, L., Meagher-Stewart, D., & Froude, S. A. (2008). Preparing the community health nursing workforce: Internal and external enablers and challenges influencing undergraduate nursing programs in Canada. *International Journal of Nursing Education Scholarship*, 5(2). doi: 10.2202/1548-923X.1518
- Villeneuve, M. M., & MacDonald, J. (2006a). *Toward 2020: Visions for Nursing*. Ottawa: Canadian Nurses Association.
- Villeneuve, M. M., & MacDonald, J. (2006b). *Toward 2020: Visions for Nursing (Special Report)*. *Canadian Nurse*, 102(5), 22-23.
- Wade, G. H., & Hayes, E. (2010). Challenges and opportunities associated with preceptor community health clinical experiences. *Public Health Nursing*, 27(5), 459-467. doi: 10.1111/j.1525-1446.2010.00879.x
- World Health Organization. 2008. *Primary Health Care: Now More Than Ever*. Geneva: Author.