Population Health Think Tank:
Building Collaborations to Improve Community Health

Victoria S. Kaprielian, MD, FAAFP
Christopher W. Stewart, MD
Campbell University Jerry M. Wallace School of Osteopathic Medicine
Session objectives

• Describe one model for collaboration between a COM and local organizations to identify and address health challenges in the surrounding area

• Identify ways COMs and their students can contribute to larger efforts to improve health on a population level

• Discuss reasonable time frames for development of trusting relationships and population-level health impacts
Population Health Think Tank

• Informal group convened in 2014 by CUSOM Dean and local hospital CEO
• Gathering of health professions faculty, community physicians, local hospital leadership, and representatives of local agencies
Who We Are

University
• Medical school
• PA program
• School of Public Health
• School of Pharmacy
• School of Nursing
• School of Business
• Divinity school

Community
• Harnett Health administration and physician
• County Health Department
• Harnett County Schools
• Mental Health facility
• Foundation for Health Leadership
What We Have Done

• Meet 2-4 times per year (90 minutes)
• Reviewed
  – Routine County Health Assessments
  – NC DHHS/DPH annual report to NCMS
• Discussed grants/projects in progress
• Connected with local faith-based efforts (Pastor’s Health Summit)

•
What We Have Done

• Engaged PH students in assessment
  – Identify high utilizers of local EDs
  – Interviews for Community Health Assessment

• Created a needs summary, identified priorities for action

• Involved health professions student groups
  – Preventive Health Club
What We’ve Accomplished

- Relationships!
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Mutual understanding and good will
Challenges

• Limited resources
  – Time
  – Money
  – People?

• Innovation vs. joining with others

• Big project vs. multiple smaller projects
Lessons Learned

• Continued dialogue is worthwhile
• Building relationships just as important as moving forward on a project
• Flexibility is essential
  – Broad invitations
  – Variable engagement

http://www.co.ontario.ny.us/195/About-Us
Lessons Learned

• Involving students not easy
  – Training
  – Supervision
  – Connection to curriculum

• Progress is slow
  – Don’t give up!
Next Steps

• Investigating grant opportunities
  – Collaboration on applications

• Exploring models for action

• Continue the discussions!
  – Unanimous desire to keep meeting
Questions?