

# Playing Nicely in the Sandbox: Exploring Clinical Education Collaboration Opportunities



April Stouder, MHS, PA-C  
Duke University PA Program

Brenda Talarico, PA-C  
Augsburg College PA Program

# Objectives



- ❧ Describe potential areas for collaboration related to clinical education in order to build positive relationships with regional PA Programs.
- ❧ Develop a process to engage regional educational programs, clinical training sites and health systems in order to benefit all learners.
- ❧ Identify strategies to foster collegiality with regional PA Programs.

# Defining the Sandbox



- ❧ Rapid expansion of PA programs, *ARC-PA data*
  - ❧ 173 currently accredited programs
    - ❧ 25 provisional accreditation
  - ❧ 73 applicant programs reviewed by 3/2016
    - ❧ 108 reviewed by 1/2017 (Yikes!)

## ❧ States with highest volume

	NY	PA	CA	FL	OH	TX	NC
Current	21	18	9	9	8	8	7
Future	23	22	14	12	12	10	12

IL - 9, MA - 7, MI - 7, VA -7

# Sandbox



- ❧ Expansion of PA class sizes
  - ❧ Institutional pressure, provider shortages, legislation
  
- ❧ Increasing volume of other health learners
  - ❧ MD students, AAMC data
    - ❧ 2008-2012, increased enrollment ~6300
  - ❧ Nursing students, CCNE data
    - ❧ 67 new programs in development

# Other Challenges



- ❧ Aging population → increased pressure on providers & practices
- ❧ Electronic health records
- ❧ Aging of experienced preceptor population
  - ❧ Attrition
- ❧ Consolidation of large health systems
- ❧ Institutional agreements with health systems
  - ❧ Preference for certain schools
- ❧ State Authorization Compliance
- ❧ Preceptor payment

# Catalyst for Change



- ❧ Business as usual/Every program for itself
  - ❧ Not sustainable in this dynamic environment!
- ❧ Goals are similar → train quality providers
- ❧ Regional collaboration, rather than competition
  - ❧ Training programs, healthcare systems, professions

# Collaboration Efforts



- ❧ Nursing Literature
  - ❧ Clinical academic practice partnership
    - ❧ Dedicated education unit concept
    - ❧ Schools & health centers, hospitals or clinics partnering
      - ❧ Recruitment, capacity, continuity
  
- ❧ Medical Education Literature
  - ❧ “Teaching practice” concept
    - ❧ Longitudinal placements
  
- ❧ Very few examples of collaboration between schools
  - ❧ Partnerships for Training, 1994-2004
    - ❧ Underserved communities, distance education

# APAP Voluntary Guidelines



- ❧ Use of clinical training sites
- ❧ Published in 1998
  - ❧ 4 points of inter-program collaboration
    - ❧ APAP members agree to a spirit of cooperation and collaboration in the use of clinical training sites
    - ❧ Need for CC to CC communication; asking preceptors if they work with other programs and if so, notifying the program of interest
    - ❧ Follow up with program that previously used a site to verify quality of experiences
    - ❧ Programs/CCs sensitive to preceptor burnout and student quality when sharing training sites



# Some Examples



- ❧ MN: The Clinical Coordination Partnership (TCCP) Project
  - ❧ Independent organization
    - ❧ State grant funded
    - ❧ Nursing students
    - ❧ Education & clinical partners
    - ❧ Centralized student scheduling & standardized orientation
    - ❧ Reduced workload time by 70% over 3 years for partners
  - ❧ TCCP hopes to roll out for medical, NP & PA students
    - ❧ Financial support by members

# Example



- ❧ NC: Clinical Coordinators Meeting
  - ❧ All accredited PA programs in the state
  - ❧ Information sharing
    - ❧ Structure of clinical year
    - ❧ Visiting students policies
    - ❧ CC contact information
    - ❧ EOR rollout strategies
  - ❧ Listserv
  - ❧ Plan for annual follow up

# Transition to Small Groups



- ❧ Sit by geographic region...tables are marked
  - ❧ Appoint a spokesperson & secretary
  
- ❧ 30 minutes
  - ❧ Share examples of current collaboration
    - ❧ Between schools, professions, organizations
  - ❧ Brainstorm opportunities for future collaboration
    - ❧ Research, curriculum, clinical sites, resources, standardization of processes
  
- ❧ Relationship building, innovation, identification of resources for support

# Summary



# Wrap Up



- ❧ Status quo has got to go!
- ❧ Be innovative and open to working with your neighbors
  - ❧ Mentorship, information sharing, advocacy, research
  - ❧ Reevaluate current model of clinical education?
- ❧ Use available resources
  - ❧ AHECs, administration, state/regional PA chapters
- ❧ Reach out to regional colleagues
  - ❧ Establish relationship, share information, establish “rules of engagement”

# References



- ❧ Nicholson JG. Voluntary guidelines adopted by APAP board regarding program collaboration on clinical training sites. *Perspective on Physician Assistant Education* 1999;10(3):143.
- ❧ Johnson J. Partnerships for training impacts PA education and practice in rural areas. *Perspective on Physician Assistant Education* 2002;13(2):106-107.
- ❧ Applicant Programs. Accreditation Review Commission on Education of the Physician Assistant Web site. [http://arc-pa.org/provisional\\_acc/applicant\\_programs.html](http://arc-pa.org/provisional_acc/applicant_programs.html). Accessed August 20, 2013.
- ❧ Total enrollment in US medical schools. Association of American Medical Colleges website. <https://www.aamc.org/download/160146/data/table31-enrll-race-sch-2011.pdf> Accessed September 3, 2013.