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Caring: The cornerstone of healthy communities

The conduction of a community assessment is a time-honored and standard practice in public health/public health nursing. A prelude to the provision of care the community assessment identifies the availability, affordability, accessibility and acceptability of a network of systems including health, education, risks and security. The second phase of the assessment asks about the function and outcomes of these systems in light of statutes, regulations, and objectives. The third phase includes recommendations for improvement, elimination of outdated programs and need for new programs. This presentation will describe the outcomes of an assessment of one of the oldest neighborhoods of the largest city in the state of Connecticut, and stated needs of the people living and working in this highly impoverished and most densely populated, 1,273 square miles. The College of Nursing at Sacred Heart University (SHU) has led an inter-disciplinary initiative with the College of Business, College of Arts and Science, College of Education and the College of Health Professions based the mission of the university "...to assist in the development of people knowledgeable of self, rooted in faith, educated in mind, compassionate in heart, responsive to social and civic obligations..." and the philosophy of College of Nursing which defines nursing as "caring with compassion, empathy, altruism with the intention of healing body, mind, spirit".

Biography

Linda Strong received a BSN from the University of Bridgeport, an MSN from Catholic University of America in Public Health Nursing and an EdD from Teachers College Columbia University. She is the Director of the RN-BSN & RN-MSN Programs. She has more than 50 presentations and published articles. Karen Bauce is Associate Dean for Online Programs and Assistant Professor, College of Nursing, at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut. She received her BSN from the University of Connecticut, MPA from New York University, and DNP from Oakland University. Prior to teaching at SHU she held various senior level nursing and hospital management positions at large health systems in NYC, and also spent several years as a collaborative practice consultant, working with hospitals and their staff to develop and implement models of shared decision-making. Dr. Bauce has travelled internationally to learn about nursing practice in other countries and has published on culture and empowerment. She is a frequent contributor to Dr. Joyce Fitzpatrick's book publications, and they have co-authored a new book on research critique, scheduled for publication in 2018.

Mary Alice Donius received a BSN degree from D'Youville College and MEd and EdD from Teachers College, Columbia University. She is the Dean, College of Nursing at Sacred Heart University. She serves on the Board of Trustees at Western Connecticut Health System and Danbury CT and ArchCare at Home in New York City.

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