

Innovation in Nursing Education Roundtable March 25, 2008

How can educators, regulators and practitioners work together to innovatively enhance nursing education for the next generation of nurses? This question was the foundation for a discussion that brought together nursing leaders from around the country on March 25, 2008. Led by NCSBN staff, the meeting included representatives from six organizations related to nursing education, three boards of nursing, the American Nurses Association and The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The roundtable discussion centered on the following objectives:

1. Establish a common understanding between regulators and educators regarding the meaning of innovation in nursing education and its importance in advancing nursing education in the 21st century.
2. Identify real and perceived regulatory barriers to innovation in nursing education and strategize how these can be addressed on the national and state level.
3. Identify exemplars of innovation in nursing education, partnerships and develop resources.
4. Create a vision as to how we can approach issues in nursing education innovatively and in accordance with one another.
5. Disseminate information to regulators and nursing educators across the country.

The meaning of innovation in nursing education

Innovation requires conceptualizing and envisioning new approaches to the teaching/learning process in nursing education. It requires faculty to think differently about the content/curriculum, instructional methods and clinical experiences in today's nursing education programs. It requires taking risks and a "non-traditional" approach to create a preferred future for nursing education in the United States.

Faculty and program administrators should begin by examining the current state of nursing education and ask the following questions

- x Why do we teach, what we teach, how best do you teach and who should teach it?

x What evidence supports the policies,

Exemplars

Innovative methods are already embedded in some nursing programs. Texas and North Carolina talked extensively about their board's efforts to collaborate with educators and promote innovative nursing education programs. Some of the efforts currently underway that were discussed include:

- x The Mayo Clinic Model a partnership between practice and education
- x Texas State Board of Nursing Nurse Practice Act has regulatory language that encourages innovation in nursing education.
- x North Carolina State Board of Nursing Educational consultants work with educators to interpret regulations and encourage new education models
- x The University of Portland Dedicated Education unit

Suggested plan

1. Create a multiorganizational website that will build evidence for innovation and be a resource for educators. All organizations will have access to this and it will allow innovative educational experiences to be documented and shared. This would include identifying best practices and outcome indicators.
2. Develop a document that addresses the role of regulation and education as partners in innovation.
3. Encourage conversations at the state level between educators, regulators and practitioners.
4. Literature review on innovation in nursing education.
5. Hold a conference, multiorganizational, on innovation in nursing education.
6. Each organization can hold a session pertaining to innovation in education at their national meetings.