UNMC Mobile Nurse Managed Clinic-Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment Project (MNMC-CGAP) Grant Impact Report Summary

The purpose of this project was to expand comprehensive geriatric health care services to underserved patient care areas in rural Kearney, Nebraska, and to enhance the Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Program.

As a direct result of receiving the grant from Women Investing in Nebraska, MNMC-CGAP provided 504 student clinical hours, created a new Geriatric Nursing position and evaluated 27 new patients in the Kearney area. Although the initial goal was 36 new patients in the first year, there were 21 patient cancellations (for various reasons) that prevented them from reaching that goal. In addition, physician referrals increased significantly in the last six months of the project, and it is anticipated these numbers will grow in subsequent years. Overall, the number of medications was decreased by 3.725 on average and the dosage of medications was decreased by 1.3 medications on average. Surveys of participant and patient satisfaction are still pending, and final results will be shared when available. Students were grateful for this clinical experience, conducted under close supervision by expert faculty, and they provided the highest possible rating. Several students were even inspired to pursue further training in geriatric care.

Another key part of the grant was the mentoring of rural UNMC College of Nursing faculty. Nancy Meier is a new addition to the Scottsbluff faculty, and she provided much of the comprehensive geropsychiatric care for patients in the MNMC-CGAP. She is utilizing her clinical experience to pursue a national grant to fund solutions for geropsychiatric health needs in Scottsbluff and Kearney. With help from other outside grants, she hopes to improve the gerontological care and mental health care of older adults in rural communities, provide interdisciplinary care, and provide undergraduate and graduate training to enhance these fields throughout the state.

MNMC-CGAP allowed Rachel Fortney to receive her collaborative agreement and prescriptive licensure. She is currently completing her first year in the Doctorate Practice Program at UNMC’s College of Nursing, and her doctoral capstone project will explore a process of assessing palliative (pain-relief) needs in vulnerable, poor adults. Finally, Marcia Shade, a doctoral student, expressed a strong desire to create a program of research about older, rural adults. She’s sure that, with better understanding and evidence for practice, nurses in rural settings could prevent serious, adverse drug events due to potentially inappropriate medication usage.

There were obstacles to the success of the Kearney MNMC-CGAP including the loss of gerontology faculty at the UNMC College of Nursing in the spring of 2013. However new faculty members were quickly trained and helped improve the final outcomes. There were also some challenges at the outset in encouraging referrals from their sponsors, Kearney Clinic. After several meetings with individual physicians, ample referrals began during the final six months of the grant period.

Please see the actual report for more details and outcomes.