Project Methods

Project Design

This project is intended to increase the knowledge of undergraduate nursing students scheduled to embark on a short term global health experience, through completion of an educational module addressing ethics and the concept of cultural humility with the goal of enhancing the experience for clients served. The project presentation setting will be a Midwest, AACN accredited School of Nursing. Inclusion criteria for participation includes enrollment in this academically sponsored, short term experience in global health (STEGH) to Costa Rica. This includes undergraduate nursing students during their final semester of their undergraduate, baccalaureate nursing curriculum. Current literature involving STEGH identifies that, historically, students engaged in healthcare medical service experiences receive little or no education regarding cultural considerations in the host community. Evidence validates that cultural humility is critical to successful short term global health experiences (Melby et al, 2016).

The educational module was developed based on formal and informal feedback during a post-STEGH debrief from the inaugural experience in 2018 and a comprehensive literature review. The presentation will occur within thirty days of departure for the STEGH and will be presented in a face-to-face, interactive format as well as available via a streaming video medium. The presentation and subsequent open-format discussion highlights the main points of ethics in short term experiences in global health and cultural humility. The forty minute presentation includes the concepts of ethical awareness, cultural humility, relevance of bidirectional participatory relationships, and sustainability. Exemplars, including acknowledgement of experiences from the inaugural experience and potential clinical dilemmas, are detailed. The integration of the aforementioned topics via this initial module, accompanied by a post-training,
post-experience instrument will be incorporated into the standardized debrief that occurs during the STEGH on the evening prior to departure from Costa Rica. Additionally, focused group dialogue and feedback during the aforementioned debrief with key stakeholders will aid in the next steps for supplemental information and interventions to enrich future content aiming toward improved experiences for all involved and sustainable change for those served.

The evaluation process is incorporated into the normally occurring debriefing experience when the short term experience in global health (STEGH) in Costa Rica is done in collaboration with the host coordinating agency, Central American Mission Project (CAMP). The two-fold approach occurs following the interactive presentation and/or viewing of an educational module and completion of clinical care activities for the STEGH. A survey instrument assessing key constructs will be provided to each STEGH participant and on-site stakeholders. The instrument includes two demographic questions, twelve (12) Likert scale style questions and three (3) open ended questions. In addition, a focus group discussion comprised of interactive dialogue and open-ended questions will be integrated into the already scheduled debriefing event which is currently slated on the evening prior to departure from Costa Rica. The discussion and debriefing will focus on ethics and cultural humility in care delivery during a STEGH. Key findings will be considered to identify gaps, improve and or develop additional supplemental materials to better serve the population of interest and plan for improvement in future STEGHs.

**Stakeholders**

Stakeholders for the project include the recipients of care, specifically those served during the STEGH. The project committee, composed of faculty and leadership from an accredited, Midwest, Doctoral Degree Carnegie class, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE), the President of Central American Mission Project (CAMP) and members of the
nonprofit organization, and the STEGH session leader(s) are also stakeholders. Stakeholders also include the faculty accompanying the students on the STEGH.

**Human Subjects’ Protection**

The IRB has determined the protocol a Quality Improvement Project (QIP) and does not constitute human subjects research as defined under 45CFR 46.102(l).