

Manitoba Nursing and Medical Program Collaboration for an International Community Health Student experience

Rachelle Brière RN, MPH
Pierre Plourde MD, FRCPC
June 2015

Objectives

- Discuss the challenges and successes of developing an international elective
- Examine the additional community health competencies that an international elective can provide students
- Re-inforce the benefits of inter-professional; inter-sectorial; inter-cultural electives

Partnerships and collaboration



El Shaddai community



Healthcare Teams 2004-2015



Student elective teams 2013 - 2015



Haiti - Nursing elective course

Université de Saint Boniface

- 3 credit course
 - Directed reading (International health and humanitarian work)
 - Development of peer learning activities
 - Development of culturally appropriate health promotion activities
- Presentation of their experiences on their return

Haiti Medical Student Elective

University of Manitoba

- 4 week elective divided into two blocks
 - 2 weeks spent in Haiti
 - 2 weeks spent in WRHA Travel Health and Tropical Medicine Clinic
- Feb-March (Post-CaRMS interviews)
- Write a 2-3 page report



Nursing and medical students



- Expected to participate in 5-6 orientation and one debriefing meeting
- Participation in fundraising and awareness activities
- Media
- Reflective journals
- 2 weeks spent in Haiti



Challenges

- Candidate Selection
- Schedules
- Agreements
- Insurance
- Cost



Successes

- Partnerships
- International service-learning experience
- Community development and empowerment
- Invaluable student experience

"Not Just" a Medical Clinic



"Two-way Teaching"



Building Capacity



Health Promotion



Inter-cultural experience



Partnership and solidarity



Mentorship



Intra-professional learning



Inter-professional learning



Independent practice



Benefits to community

- Primary health care
- Building capacity



- Economic development
- Solidarity
- Empowerment

Benefits to team

- Students available and eager ☺
- Younger team
- Energy
- Flexibility
- Creativity



Benefits to students

- Autonomy and independence
- Interdisciplinary practice
- Cultural awareness and competence
- Firsthand experience of global health equity and social justice issues
- Gain a sense of global responsibility



Student feedback

- « I have found a new appreciation for community work as well as working abroad »
- « Je vous assure que ce voyage a changé ma vie et je vais être une meilleure infirmière suite à cette expérience »
- « I had attempted to prepare myself However, the reality was beyond what I could have imagined. The chaos, the beauty, the joy; all blew my expectations out of the water. »



Hand
in Hand
with Haiti



- EMAS Canada:
<http://www.emascanada.org/>
- Hand in hand with Haiti
<http://www.handinhandwithhaiti.org/>



Questions??

