

PRESENTED AT THE 2011 DNP CONFERENCE

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Abstract Category: DNP in Policy Leadership

Title: Developing DNP Policy Leaders in Addressing Health Disparities through Education Assignments

Purpose: Purpose: To Share the Process and Outcomes of DNP Leadership Development in Policy through Addressing Health Disparities. Rationale: Health disparity issues are rampant in rural and urban settings in the Southeast USA. Using population health issues as the policy focus in the classroom provides the perfect venue for DNP leadership development in policy

Objective 1: To outline education process for DNP leadership policy development

Objective 2: To describe policy related activities and issues when addressing health disparities

Objective 3: To outline policy plan outcomes, learning, and DNP vision for addressing health disparity issues.

Abstract:

The goal of Healthy People 2020 is to achieve positive health outcomes across current areas of health disparities, including social, economic, and ethnic disparities (USDHHS, 2010). DNP graduates are to be educated to design, influence, and implement health care policies that frame health care financing, practice regulation, access, safety, quality, and efficacy (IOM, 2001). In a DNP policy course, students followed a step-wise process to develop DNP health policy leadership by identifying a health disparity issue, researching the issue and policy-related activities, identified needed policy concerns at the local, state, and national level, developed strategies to address the policy concerns as a DNP leader, and evaluated contextual issues that influenced implementation. This presentation will outline the education process followed for DNP leadership policy development in this educational setting. Policy-related activities and issues encountered when addressing health disparities will be described. Examples of the

selected policy efforts explored included: access issues for uninsured poor; providing care to rural patients with no resources to travel to care sites and payment issues; implementation of chronic illness prevention and health promotion services for businesses with less than 50 employees; and implementing care structures that will be utilized by rural and urban poor and patients of differing race/ethnicities to manage chronic illness. We will share several strategy plans with intended outcomes developed by DNP students to address health disparity issues in Southeastern USA. Learning outcomes for DNP leadership development in policy will be discussed to highlight potential policy outcomes for the DNP practitioner. Results from evaluation of this scaffolded learning and DNP leadership development process will be summarized to determine how this educational strategy promotes effective learning outcomes and effective policy change development.