The DNP Mind at Work in Micro-, Meso-, and Macrosystems
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BACKGROUND

- 14 MSN to DNP students graduated from GMU's DNP program in 2012 and 2013.
- ALL practice inquiry projects proposed an evidence-based solution to a systems challenge within their respective organizations.
- AACN highlights the importance of a systems approach in several DNP Essentials.

SYSTEMS SPECIFIC DNP ESSENTIALS

**Essential II: Organizational and Systems Thinking**

- Develop and evaluate core delivery approaches.

**Essential IV: Information Systems/Technology and Patient Care Technology for the Improvement and Transformation of Health Care**

- Design, select, use, and evaluate programs that evaluate and monitor outcomes of care systems.
- Demonstrate the conceptual ability and technical skills to develop and execute an evaluation plan for practice information systems and databases.
- Provide leadership in the evaluation and resolution of ethical and legal issues within healthcare systems.

**Essential V: Interprofessional Collaboration for Improving Patient and Population Health Outcomes**

- Employ consultative and leadership skills with intra- and interprofessional teams to create change in complex healthcare delivery systems.

**Essential VIII: Advanced Nursing Practice**

- Systematic assessment of health and illness parameters in complex situations.
- Demonstrate advanced levels of clinical judgment, systems thinking, and accountability.

HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

- Macrosystem – larger organization, in most cases the hospital or multispecialty clinic
- MesoSystem – journey of the patient through several microsystems
- Microsystem – a group of health professionals come together to serve the needs of a population of patients

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- AACN encourages DNP programs to equip graduates with a systems thought process.
- DNP students have an opportunity to develop, implement, analyze, and evaluate a systems thought process in multiple healthcare systems during their final projects.
- Breaking down healthcare systems into micro-, meso-, and macrosystems assists DNP students in understanding the interrelationships and the potential impact of their projects.

PRACTICE INQUIRY PROJECT TITLES 2012-2013

12. Patterson, K. (2012). Development of informational content for a new educational model to integrate diabetes and hypertension screening into the psychiatric mental health nursing role.

BIBLIOGRAPHY