**Purpose**

- Identify ways interdepartmental and interagency partnerships can effectively utilize healthcare professionals to improve collaboration and interprofessional education (IPE).

**Review of Literature**

- Workshops among medical students, nursing students, and pharmacy students have shown importance of communication and collaboration among disciplines (67% participants agreed pre and post).
- Simulation experiences among nursing students and medical students have been effective in learning from other disciplines.
- Simulation usage between academia and hospitals enhance student experiences.
- Working with other disciplines to examine, diagnose, and develop plans improves confidence and communication.
- Healthcare theatre combines students from various disciplines (science and art) to concurrently learn about their field and gain an appreciation for others.

**IPE in Action**

- Collaboration with the local medical college.
- Collaboration with other disciplines at local community colleges (Emergency Medical Technicians, Respiratory Therapy, 2 year Registered Nurses).
- Simulation experiences at healthcare facilities with faculty and employees.
- Research projects at settings that require interprofessional collaboration (churches, schools).
- Incorporation of content that requires interprofessional collaboration (nutrition).

**Barriers**

- Preconceived ideas about other disciplines.
- Incorporating more seasoned nurses in the IPE.
- Incorporating nursing faculty to work with other disciplines and agencies.
- “Turf” issues.
- Proximity of facilities.
- Perceived cost.

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"Interprofessional education (IPE) occurs when two or more professions learn about, from and with each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes" (WHO, 1998).