



# Sustaining an Interprofessional Collaborative Approach to Fight Childhood Obesity in Primary Schools: SNACK

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# Why Interprofessional Collaboration


- The Institute of Medicine (now called the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, & Medicine) (IOM) published the report *To Err is Human* which highlighted the lack of safety in health care delivery in the US.
- As many as 44,000 patients die annually due to medical errors (IOM, 1999).
  - Why so many?
  - What factors contributed to these high numbers?
  - The number one problem was **failure to communicate** across the health care team.

# Why Interprofessional Collaboration

- The IOM continued to study patient safety and quality care resulting in a report:
  - *Health Professions Education: A Bridge to Quality.*
- Five Competencies were identified as needed by all health professionals to combat errors:
  - Provide Patient-Centered Care
  - **Work in Interdisciplinary Teams**
  - Employ Evidence-Based Practice
  - Apply Quality Improvement
  - Utilize Informatics

# Why Interprofessional Collaboration

- The Interprofessional Education Collaborative consisting of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, American Dental Education Association, Association of American Medical Colleges and Association of Schools of Public Health worked together to define interprofessional education and the associated competencies.
- This report identified four domains of competencies:
  - Values Interprofessional Practice
  - Roles/Responsibilities
  - Interprofessional Communication
  - Teams and Teamwork



# SNACK: Smart Nutrition And Conditioning For Kids

## Values & Interprofessional Practice:

- Health and Exercise Science (HES)
- Nursing
- TCNJ Undergraduate students
- Schools,
- Administration,
- PE teachers,
- School nurses



# Roles/Responsibilities

- HES & HES students
- Nursing & Nursing students
- PE teachers
- School Nurses
- Classroom teachers
- Administration



# Interprofessional Communication

- Understanding expertise in various fields
- Understanding discipline specific verbiage



# Teams and Teamwork

- There is no “I” in **TEAM!**
- Collaboration
- Mutual respect
- Scheduling challenges
- Building bridges



# Successes From the Original Journey

- Original funding \$45,000 to TCNJ
- Current funding 1 million dollars annually: Community Health Collaborative
- Benefits to children:
  - Increased physical activity
  - Improved nutrition knowledge & healthy food choices
  - Parental engagement
  - Community partnerships
  - Sustainability

# Partnerships

- Trenton YMCA
- Boys & Girls Club of Trenton & Mercer County
- Wellness in the Schools (WITS)
- The Trenton Health Team
- Trenton School District
- George Street Playhouse
- New Jersey Partnership for Healthy Kids
- Isles
- Go Noodle
- The Food Trust
- The College of New Jersey (TCNJ)



work function silos are artifacts  
of a time when information was scarce  
and connections were few



that time is coming to pass

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