

University of Hawaii

School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene

Office of Research and Extramural Programming

June 2010 Summary Report RE: AHRQ Grant #1R13HS017892-01A1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This summary report covers the period September 30, 2009, the date the grant was awarded, through June 30, 2010, ninety days following the closure of the 2010 Pacific Institute of Nursing Conference, held March 29 and 30, 2010 and sponsored in part by the above referenced AHRQ Grant.

As stated in the Abstract included with this report, the purpose of this grant is to assist with the dissemination of knowledge to improve outcomes, quality, and access to health care services in Hawaii through implementation of evidence-based practice. Our second regional research dissemination and translation conference entitled "Pacific Institute of Nursing: Advancing Practice, Education and Research" was held on March 29 and 30, 2010 at the Waikiki Prince Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii and fulfilled its goal of reaching nursing administrators, clinicians, educators and researchers from Hawaii and beyond. With more than 250 attendees, it was gratifying to have excellent participation from a broad range of nursing fields as well as across the continuum of care from acute to long term care, including hospice and home care. Many students attended as well.

With just 3 months in which to organize the conference, the Planning Committee, comprised of members from more than twelve educational and healthcare organizations, worked very efficiently to make the critical decisions and identify potential presenters, solicit vendors and market the conference to future attendees. The Key Note speaker, Dr. Patricia Benner, was outstanding as she spoke compellingly on radically transforming the educational training of nurses. It was thought provoking, but rewarding for listeners, as the following day's panel presentation by University of Hawaii School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene (UHSONDH) faculty on Articulated Curriculum and its Application to Practice and Education clearly met many of the recommendations made by Dr. Benner. The conference also had two post lunch speakers, one of whom spoke on understanding Congress's legislative process as it related to national health care reform, while the other focused on strategies for nurturing nurses. Both speakers received the highest marks for plenary presenters.

There were a total of thirty-six podium presentations and twenty poster presentations. Six of the podium and one poster presentations were made by the Evidence Based Practice Class of 2009. All Abstracts were posted on the PIN website for pre and post conference accessibility. As such, CDs were not provided with the program brochure.

A two and one half day Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) Workshop was held immediately following the 2010 PIN Conference. As in the past two years, Marita Titler, Ph.D. the creator and architect of the Iowa Model for developing an EBP project led the Workshop. Her co-leader was Debra Mark, Ph.D, Principle Investigator for the AHRQ grant. She is both Director of Research and Extramural Programming at the UHSONDH and Nurse Researcher for the Hawaii State Center for Nursing. Twelve projects were initiated by teams from seven organizations and while most were acute care oriented the target populations ranged from pediatric to gerontology patients and one project focuses on emergency responses in out-patient settings. This is an intense two and one-half day workshop which requires close follow-up with each team over an eighteen month period including monthly conference calls and quarterly all day face to face meetings. All presenters received good or excellent ratings.

Lessons Learned

The overwhelming anecdotal and post-conference evaluations highlighted the importance of the purpose of the conference and the venue. Participants expressed a high interest in evidence based practice and learning about the on-going and completed projects, the various phases of a project and outcomes. Evidence Based Practice project poster and breakout sessions were well attended and registrants noted on their evaluations that they achieved their goal(s) in attending them. Many expressed interest in participating in a two and one-half day EBP workshop sometime in the future.

With only three months to plan the conference, the Committee was challenged to find a site that could accommodate the anticipated numbers of registrants. As such, the conference was convened in a somewhat constrained venue, although it met our minimum needs fairly well. For example, the maximum number the hotel could hold in the ballroom was 250 people. The posters sessions did not have as much space for attendees to gather around them as we would have liked although they were in close proximity to the refreshments, which promoted ease of viewing and interacting with the presenters. There were only three rooms that could be used for breakout sessions which resulted in sessions being scheduled in rooms that were either slightly too small for the number of participants or somewhat too large, as in the case of when they were held in the ballroom. The sessions were held one right after the other, which did not promote ease of movement for participants, particularly if the speaker ran overtime. While many thought that the smaller, more intimate, setting allowed for greater networking and facility in locating posters, breakout sessions, and colleagues, others felt the congestion presented challenges in terms of people flow. Lastly, more time will be allowed between sessions to allow people to move from one room to another, encourage additional questions and answers and, enable moderators sufficient time to set up for the next presenter.

Marketing of the conference was limited by the planning timeframe. As a result, this year we drew fewer international attendees, fewer mainland participants, and fewer vendors, than in the past. Some who expressed a desire to attend noted that the conference was not included in their budgets for this year, making participation impossible. In anticipation of receiving year two funding from AHRQ, the Planning Committee has identified a site well suited to a large conference and will send out notice six to nine months in advance of the actual conference dates. It will also be posted on the Event Planner's website in August with reminder notices sent out at frequent intervals to ensure greater participation in 2011.

Presenters will be asked to post their slides so that attendees will be able to access them post-conference. This step will fulfill some participant's requests for copies of slide presentations and further knowledge transfer and retention.

The 2011 PIN Planning Committee has convened, a sub-theme which supports the over-arching theme of Advancing Nursing Practice, Education and Research has been developed, and invitations to key note speakers have been sent out. We sincerely hope that AHRQ staff will be able to attend this conference.