


3-30-2022

Creating an E-Learning Module: Reality of Children Experiencing Social Determinants of Health

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Recommended Citation

Wardian, Jana L. PhD and Stade, Leah M. (2022) "Creating an E-Learning Module: Reality of Children Experiencing Social Determinants of Health," *Innovations in Health Sciences Education Journal*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 2 , Article 12.

Available at: <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.32873/unmc.dc.ihsej.0016>

This original report is available in Innovations in Health Sciences Education Research Journal:
<https://digitalcommons.unmc.edu/ihsej/vol1/iss2/12>

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<https://doi.org/10.32873/unmc.dc.ihsej.0016><https://digitalcommons.unmc.edu/ihsej/>

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Poster presented at the 2022 Spotlight on Scholarship at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska.

Abstract

Health disparities are associated with social, economic, educational attainment, and access to healthcare. Healthcare students would benefit from learning about this critical element of caring for patients during their training; however, simply reading about the social determinants of health (SDH) may not be enough to foster awareness and compassion. Storytelling is a powerful tool to help health professions students to immerse themselves in another's experience. Currently, there are no UNMC e-Learning modules that address the social determinants of health. We believe this is a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) issue that needs to be adequately addressed across various health professions programs. We are forming a long-term collaborative team with varying skills and perspectives to develop educational modules that incorporate storytelling about characters experiencing SDH to increase empathy and provide a unique, meaningful educational experience for healthcare professions students. This team will include the e-Learning team, educators, medical humanities professors, a Pediatrician, an Occupational Therapist, and a social work professor. This diverse group will recruit additional people with unique perspectives as needed. Our first module will examine the needs of children experiencing SDH; however, our intention is to create additional e-Learning curricula highlighting various groups.

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