

Becoming Community Competent

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PRESENTATION FORMAT: 15 minute oral presentation

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: All Health Care Professionals

ABSTRACT: Wallace Medical Concern is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), in the Rockwood community of West Gresham. We recognize that to understand our clients, we not only must understand the neighborhood they walked through to get to our door, but we must be a clinic that walks out that front door to understand their journey, and understand those neighbors that don't visit. Wallace Medical Concern and the OHSU School of Nursing have partnered to increase the "community competency" of Wallace Medical Concern.

Community competency ensures comprehensive care for our patients; more personal understanding and engagement by providers, and can also lead clinic staff to identify opportunities to be agents for positive changes - leading to a healthier community.

This presentation will describe the work of both students and staff to reach out to the community, the lessons learned, and on-going efforts towards becoming community competent. Practical recommendations will be given for organizations desiring to increase their understanding of the communities they are there to serve.

OBJECTIVE(S): a) Gain an understanding and the benefits of community competency
b) Assess and define community competency of their own organization
c) Formulate a plan to improve community competency within their organization/workgroup

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