

TITLE: Rebuilding the Bridge between Healthcare and Faith Communities

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Rural community health and healthcare providers at all levels, Coordinated Care Organizations, County Community Health, Health system community health partners, community based organizations focused on community well-being and social determinants of health

ABSTRACT: 1. Some community members do not access care because they struggle to navigate the health system, find reliable health information, and access community resources. 2. Tap into nursing expertise in faith communities to improve healthcare access and equity. 3. Create a network for ongoing education and collaboration and to offer annual preparatory training for RNs entering the Faith Community Nursing (FCN) Practice Specialty; equip FCNs with tools to document interventions, access the Connect Oregon referral platform, and assist in accessing online health information. 4. We formed a non-profit, delivered the Foundations of Faith Community Nursing Course in 12/2021, provided 11 laptops/peripherals, signed them up on Connect Oregon through their faith communities, and purchased/trained on a Faith Community Nursing Electronic Documentation System. We are gathering data and are eager to share with others who might want to tap into faith communities to improve health outcomes. 5. FCNs are healthcare touch points inside faith communities. They practice at all levels of prevention serving individuals and populations. An active FCN will likely contribute to improved health, reduced costs, and improved health access, equity, and literacy. FCNs provide prevention education and coaching, coordinate/conduct screenings for early disease identification, and assist with chronic disease management.

OBJECTIVE(S): After viewing this poster, attendees will be able to Define Faith Community Nursing as a practice specialty. List one aspect of faith community nursing practice that can serve to improve healthcare access and equity.
