Health profession students commonly have limited exposure to each other during education and training, yet are expected to interact in the workplace as functioning health care teams. We reasoned that by providing students an opportunity to work together under faculty supervision, we would enhance their knowledge and appreciation of each other’s disciplines and give them a better understanding of working together after graduation. The RESPECT Project (Realizing Enhanced Student Inter-Professional Education through Clinical Teamwork) is entering its 6th year. The project involved teams of students from four disciplines (medicine, nursing, dentistry, and dental hygiene) working as volunteers with a population of transitional homeless families to develop individualized health and wellness plans.

The San Antonio Metropolitan Ministries (SAMM) Transitional Living and Learning Center (TLLC) provides inter-professional learning opportunities for the student teams.

RESPECT Project Benefits for Families

- Have a complete health needs assessment
- Get medical and dental screenings
- Receive a wellness plan tailored for each family member
- Contribute to the education of future health professionals

RESPECT Project Benefits for Students

- Increased self confidence
- Collaboration with other health professionals
- Train future health care providers to work together in clinical teams for optimal patient care
- Appreciation in working with other health profession disciplines

References

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