Oral Defense Announcement
University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Nursing Practice with an emphasis in Family Nurse Practitioner

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B.A. in Business Administration, May 2005, Webster University-St. Louis
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Decreasing Missed Opportunities for Adolescent Vaccination in a County Health Department

Date: July 11, 2019
Time: 2:20 p.m
Place: College of Nursing Building, Room 106

Abstract
Problem: Immunization is a proven tool to control life-threatening diseases in adolescents. Studies show that (number) of adolescents who visit a healthcare provider miss opportunities to receive recommended vaccinations. Missouri’s adolescent vaccination rates are below those of its neighboring states.

Methods: The project took place at the three clinics of a Midwestern county health department. All 24 registered nurses (RNs) employed at DPH attended an adolescent vaccine training program and completed pre- and post-tests. Inclusion criteria was RNs employed at the health department, exclusion criteria was anyone who was not an RN at the health department. A paired t-test was used to analyze the results of pre-/post-test scores. Chart reviews were conducted comparing adherence to ACIP guidelines and vaccination rates from March 1 to April 30 2018 verses March 1 to April 30 2019. Inclusion criteria was anyone aged 11-18 years who was visiting one of the three locations walk in vaccine clinics for vaccine services.

Results: Increases in compliance for specific vaccines at each clinic were observed. There was a significant increase in RN knowledge from the pre-test to post-test scores (p=0.03), however, there was no significant difference in RN confidence scores (p=0.06). A small increase in ACIP guideline adherence for HPV vaccines was observed, there were no misses for Tdap, MenACWY, or MenB vaccines. There was no change in the number of patients who were completely up to date with all recommended adolescent vaccines.

Implications for practice: More studies over a longer period, education programs for the public regarding the benefits of vaccines, and policy mandating adolescent vaccines are recommended.

Defense of Dissertation Committee
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