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

An oral examination in defense of the co-authored dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Education with an emphasis in Educational Practice

Kiley Bednar
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Perspectives: The Impact of the Closure of a Health Institution in a Black Community in North St. Louis County

Date: July 6, 2022
Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place: Remote

Abstract
Based on the literature of social determinants of health, health equity, and anchor institutions, it is evident that hospitals have a role to play in ensuring the health of their community. However, our understanding of the impact of hospital closures is limited, especially when it comes to Black communities. The purpose of this study is to examine the relationship of the closure of the Normandy Osteopathic Hospital to the social determinants of health—specifically access to care and economic stability as it relates to income and wealth generation—for a Black community in one near-North suburb of St. Louis. Ten individuals with a connection to the Normandy Osteopathic Hospital were interviewed using qualitative methods and an oral history protocol. Data was coded and analyzed using thematic analysis. Findings showed that the hospital closure not only had an impact on access to health care, but also on community self-worth and economic wellbeing. As a result of these findings, policy implications and recommendations are explored.

Defense of Dissertation Committee
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