

Human Trafficking Awareness and Victim Identification in Broward County: A Replication Study

Principal Investigator: Sandrine Gaillard-Kenney, Ed.D.

Abstract

The Department of Justice and the Florida Coalition against Human Trafficking identify Florida as a primary hub for human trafficking. Broward County is a destination for domestic minor sex trafficking and labor trafficking. The Broward County Public Schools Office of Prevention Programs cautions that domestic minors as young as 13 years old are trafficked. The Broward Human Trafficking Coalition (BHTC) provides resources and training for anyone who may encounter potential victims, yet this training does not specifically target health care professionals. Health care faculty and future health care providers in Broward County lack training on human trafficking (HT) awareness and identification. Williamson, Dutch and Clawson (2010) identified the need to include HT training in health professions curricula as victims encounter health care professionals in various community health care settings. Kent, Colón, and Gaillard-Kenney (2011) developed and implemented HT curriculum for Nova Southeastern University faculty in the College of Health Care Sciences and the College of Nursing that focused on HT awareness, knowledge, and skills for victim identification. The four professional development modules were designed in partnership with the BHTC, and guided by the principles of the Transtheoretical Model of Change (TTM) and Adult Learning Theory. The results of this study were that all participants gained HT knowledge and were willing to include HT in their curriculum. This proposed replication study will extend the four modules to faculty in the College of Osteopathic Medicine, College of Dental Medicine, and College of Psychological Studies. This proposed study will utilize a mixed-methods evaluative approach, focusing on formative and summative outcomes. Cross sectional surveys will be collected after each module. Qualitative data will be collected through open ended survey items and a focus group. Human trafficking is a complex problem with overwhelming importance. Health care professionals can play a role in the elimination of “modern day slavery.” By influencing faculty to adopt HT curriculum, the knowledge and skills to identify victims can be taught to their students, the future health care providers. Victim protection through appropriate referrals to community and health care services, improves the quality of life for the victim and all Broward County residents.

The Use of a Patient-Centered Relationship Enrichment Training Program to Improve Quality of Life for Caregivers and Stroke Survivors

Principal Investigator: Bini Litwin PT DPT PhD MBA

Abstract/Executive Summary

Survivors of cerebral vascular accidents (strokes) and their caregivers often lack knowledge and resources that enable a constructive response to changes in lifestyle associated with the debilitation of the stroke incident. The absence of these often impacts the relationship between survivor and caregiver, in turn, negatively impacting quality of life, stroke rehabilitation progress, and comorbid emotional and physical challenges for both survivor and caregiver. The patient-centered Butterfly Model was developed to help survivors and caregivers work through lifestyle transformation, challenges and changes within the context of often turbulent relationships. It is anticipated that a training program provided to dyads of stroke survivors and caregivers can promote self-awareness of attitudes and emotions that can serve as a framework to re-build relationships and improve quality of life for those dealing with the challenges of altered lifestyles subsequent to the stroke incident.

The training program will consist of 6 one-hour monthly educational/behavior modification sessions provided by a trained facilitator to 20 survivor-caregiver dyads. The participants will be recruited from a Broward County stroke survivor group that will serve as the community partner in this project. The training sessions will focus on improving caregiver coping and relationship rebuilding skills using specific scales and measures to determine change over time. These sessions can also provide a model for use by stroke survivor support groups and healthcare providers to expand existing strategies currently utilized.

Outcomes will be measured qualitatively and quantitatively using specific scales and measures pre and post training sessions and interviews of survivors and caregivers following the training sessions. Outcome measures will include the Caregiver Strain Index, Geriatric Depression Scale, Conflict Management Style Assessment, Stroke Specific Quality of Life Scale for the caregivers and the Stroke Impact Scale and Perceived Stress Scale for the stroke survivors. The participant interviews will seek to understand how the training program impacted relationships, what skills/strategies were gained from the program and what limiting factors were encountered in achieving change?

This proposal is a collaborative effort between the Physical Therapy Department (CHCS), Marriage and Family Therapy and Conflict Resolution Departments (SHSS) and the Department of Geriatrics (COM). Students from the Departments of

Geriatrics and Marriage and Family Therapy will be utilized to support the study, assisting in literature reviewers, patient scheduling, data collection and analysis, and program delivery. It is hoped that this project can serve as a pilot for further funding through an external grant, whereby participant diversity and collaborating support groups can be expanded.

A Pilot of the Physical Activity through Social Support (PASS) Program for Teens

Principal Investigator: Jessica M. Valenzuela, PhD

Abstract

This project is a collaborative effort between NSU's Center for Psychological Studies (CPS), Florida Introduces Physical Activity & Nutrition to Youth (FLIPANY), the NSU Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC), and two community-based after-school programs led by OIC of South Florida and ASPIRA of South Florida. Its overarching goal is to improve the quality of life of low-income, racial/ethnic minority youth by increasing physical activity and physical fitness. Physical activity has many important benefits including promotion of physical and psychosocial well-being throughout the lifespan. In addition, increasing physical activity in youth is critical to addressing the obesity epidemic impacting youth in Broward County. This pilot after-school intervention includes multiple innovative components drawn from the literature on physical activity in adolescents: (a) an evidence-based physical education curriculum that is engaging to youth (i.e., the CATCH curriculum led by FLIPANY), (b) exposure to physically active role models for youth (i.e., Nova student athletes will participate in the curriculum), (c) development of self-management strategies and peer support for physical activity (i.e., a CPS-led group behavioral intervention), and (d) parent engagement (i.e., parent "home-based" activities and "Family Night"). This study is the first step in a program of research to develop physical activity intervention strategies that are effective in addressing the needs of low-income, racial/ethnic minority youth. In addition to evaluating the program's impact on physical activity, fitness, and BMI, the study will examine the mechanisms of change that led to improvements in youth (e.g., increased self-efficacy, increased self-management strategies, increased peer support for physical activity). We will also examine group differences (e.g., gender, ethnic group) in outcomes in order to understand who benefits the most from this intervention. Finally, focus groups with youth and parents will help us to understand the acceptability of the program and its perceived impact. Study findings will provide guidance in further developing and disseminating the intervention more broadly. This pilot project will also provide critical results that can be used to seek additional funding for the program's larger scale evaluation and dissemination.