



Abstract Title: The embedded research experience and population health system impact in Nova Scotia

Meaghan Sim
Healthy Populations
Institute
Nova Scotia Health
Authority

Sara Kirk
Healthy Populations
Institute
Dalhousie University

Alice Aiken
Dalhousie University

Janet Knox
Nova Scotia Health
Authority

Tricia Cochrane

Introduction/background

In 2017-18, CIHR's Health System Impact (HSI) Fellowship was launched to provide recent graduates with a high-quality, post-doctoral training environment to address critical challenges within the health system. By situating fellows outside of the scholarly setting and enabling opportunities for professional and leadership development, this program is designed to be responsive to those who wish to further their careers and health system impact in non-academic or hybrid (academic-health system) roles. Each HSI Fellow is also tasked with working on an evidence-based impact project identified by the host organization that will support its goals. The host organizations benefit through realizing the skills of PhD graduates but also that this embedded researcher model formalizes the evidence to practice circle as fellows are situated "in-between" academia and the health system (Vindrola-Pados et al., 2017). Included in the inaugural, pan-Canadian cohort of HSI Fellows is a trainee with Dalhousie University and the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA).

Purpose

NSHA has identified the development of a population health policy framework as the HSI Fellow's program of work for 2017-18. Our presentation will provide an overview of the Dalhousie-NSHA HSI fellowship with a specific focus on the rationale for, and development of, the population health policy framework, including lessons learned as an embedded researcher, the path to framework development, and future opportunities for the embedded researcher role for Dalhousie-NSHA as it pertains to a whole-system population health approach.

Approach

The process of developing this framework attends to leading and emerging evidence supporting population health action within health systems alongside understanding organizational culture and context (Baker et al., 2017; Vindrola-Pados et al., 2017). This is in recognition that practitioner and community experiences and local, contextual information is vital to future implementation success (NCCMT, 2011).

Outcomes

The development of a population health policy framework as an output of the HSI fellowship provides an exemplar case for how embedded researchers support modern-day health system innovation and transformation (Gardner, 2015). In the case of the Dalhousie-NSHA HSI fellowship, this framework will reorient the NSHA to a population health approach across the entire organization and help shape the implementation of evidence-based population health actions that will positively impact Nova Scotians.

Conclusion

The CIHR Dalhousie-NSHA HSI fellowship provides an evidence-based, innovative opportunity to embed a researcher within the local health system to support better health for Nova Scotians within the context of future sustainability of the health system.

References

- Baker, G.R., Cohen, D., & Farmanova-Haynes, E. (2017). Evolving integrated care: Moving towards a population health approach. *International Journal of Integrated Care*, 17(3), A80, 1-8. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5334/ijic.3192>
- Gardner, W. (2015). Policy capacity in the learning healthcare system: Comment on "Health reform requires policy capacity." *International Journal of Health Policy and Management*, 4(12), 841–843. <http://doi:10.15171/ijhpm.2015.147>.
- Vindrola-Pados, C., Pape, T., Utley M., & Fulop N.J. (2017). The role of embedded research in quality improvement: A narrative review. *BMJ Quality Safety*, 26, 70-80. <http://doi:10.1136/bmjqs-2015-004877>
- National Collaborating Centre for Methods and Tools (NCCMT). (2011). PARiHS framework for implementing research into practice. Hamilton, ON: McMaster University. Retrieved from <http://www.nccmt.ca/knowledge-repositories/search/85>.

Cite this document in APA:

Sim, M., Kirk, S., Aiken, A., Knox, J., & Cochrane, T. (2018, September). *The North End Food Coalition. The embedded research experience and population health system impact in Nova Scotia*. Paper presented at the Healthy Living, Healthy Life: Collaborative Health Conference on Research, Practice and Community Innovations Conference, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS. Retrieved from <https://ojs.library.dal.ca/HLHL/>

CC BY-NC-SA