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Development of an Intimate Partner Violence Screening Competency Validation for Nurses in a Hospital Setting

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Bianchi, Ann, "Development of an Intimate Partner Violence Screening Competency Validation for Nurses in a Hospital Setting" (2016). *Summer Community of Scholars (RCEU and HCR) Project Proposals*. 286. <https://louis.uah.edu/rceu-proposals/286>

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MEMO

TO: Dr. Joseph Taylor

FROM: Dr. Ann Bianchi, Associate Professor, College of Nursing

DATE: December 7, 2015

RE: RCEU Proposal: Development of an Intimate Partner Violence Screening
Competency Validation for Nurses in a Hospital Setting

I am submitting a final proposal titled: *Development of an Intimate Partner Violence Screening Competency Validation for Nurses in a Hospital Setting*. This proposal includes the student's information and student's statement.

I have contacted Kristina Faw to inform her of my selection of her proposal and she has confirmed she has not submitted to any other RCEU faculty project.

If you have any questions about this proposed research project please feel free to call me.

Ann

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Research and Creative Experience for Undergraduate (RCEU) Proposal

Development of an Intimate Partner Violence Screening Competency Validation for Nurses in a Hospital Setting

Faculty/Research Mentor

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Project Summary

Overview/Specific Aims. Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a public health problem that affects one in three women in the United States. Three to nine percent of women report IPV during pregnancy each year. Viewing IPV as a public health problem has the potential to engage multiple stakeholders such as hospital administrators, nurses, and researchers to not only evaluate current IPV guidelines but develop effective IPV training programs and methods to validate nurse competency in screening for IPV. Advocating for evidence-based IPV training programs, improved pathways for early IPV identification and assessment, while ensuring nurses' competency in assessing and screening for IPV may serve to meet the health and safety needs of abused women and their children.

Current reporting rates of IPV do not reflect the magnitude of the problem and if nurses do not ask, women may not disclose. Low reporting rates may be a reflection of nurses not routinely screening for IPV in the hospital setting. The simple act of screening for IPV may serve as an intervention in itself and bring attention to the underlying cause of many physical and mental health problems reported by women who experience IPV. Unfortunately there are many barriers to IPV screening in the hospital setting such as lack of training and methods to effectively validate IPV screening competency of the nurse.

Literature reports pregnant women who participate in an IPV screening program have fewer low birth weight infants compared to pregnant women who do not participate in an IPV screening program. One study found that greater than 75% of the women were not screened for intimate partner violence during their pregnancy. Failure to adequately screen all pregnant women denies them the opportunity for referrals to supportive agencies and could be detrimental to their health and the health of their child. An effective screening program that offers training and has provisions to validate the nurses' competency in IPV screening may help increase confidence in screening. To this end, provisions must be made to ensure that screening programs remain effective and encourage 100% compliance for screening all pregnant women.

This proposed project is one part of a research program that investigates *Intimate Partner Violence During Pregnancy, Mother-Infant Bonding, and Child Functioning*. To better serve women during pregnancy and support nurses in screening for IPV support from hospital administrators are needed to develop policies and design a competency tool that can be used to validate the nurses' skill for IPV screening. The specific aims of this project is to investigate screening recommendations from federal agencies and professional organizations, develop an IPV training session to prepare for competency validation, select an IPV screening instrument,

and design a competency tool that validates nurse's skills in screening women for IPV. A pilot study will also be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness and nurse satisfaction of the IPV competency validation.

Student Prerequisites:

The student will be expected to conduct literature searches, navigate federal agency websites to collect information relating to policies and recommendations for screening. Become knowledgeable on a variety of IPV screening tools. The student will be expected to be self-directed and self-motivated. The student will also be expected to communicate with hospital administrators and nurses in a professional manner to include being organized and prompt for scheduled meetings, training classes, and sessions for validating competency in IPV screening.

Student Duties

The undergraduate student will work with Dr. Bianchi to develop policies and protocols related to IPV screening and IPV competency validation of nurse's for IPV screening in the hospital setting. The student will become familiar with federal agencies and professional organization recommendations for screening women for intimate partner violence. The student will conduct a literature review related to IPV during pregnancy to include identifying reliable and validated instruments used to screen women for IPV. The student will meet with hospital administrators and nurse educators to develop a competency tool that will be used to validate the nurses' skill in screening all women for IPV. Clinical hours will be provided as the student will work with the nurse educator in designing the competency tool, planning the training sessions, conduct a pilot study to evaluate the effectiveness and nurse satisfaction of a competency tool, and assist with conducting skill validation for nurses. A majority of the clinical hours will be spent at the hospital.

Students Benefits. The RCEU experience will provide the student with an opportunity to see first hand how a hospital develops a competency protocol and validation of skills that will promote 100% compliance for IPV screening. Other benefits include exploring the ethics of this sensitive topic and the importance in preparing and validating competencies in nurses.

At the completion of this experience the student will:

1. Identify validate and reliable IPV screening tools.
2. Identify the methods needed to develop competency validation for IPV screening.
3. Evaluate effectiveness and nurse satisfaction with IPV training and IPV competency validation.

Mentor Supervision and Interaction

Weekly meetings will be conducted with Dr. Bianchi to review progress and develop plans to move the project forward. Dr. Bianchi will provide leadership and mentorship to assist the student in collecting and organizing information that will used to develop IPV screening policies and the protocol for developing and conducting competency validation for nurses that promote 100% compliance for IPV screening. Leadership and mentorship will also be provided to assist the student in identifying appropriate venues for dissemination of the student's work. The student selected for this project will have the benefit of elevating the competency level of nurses who conduct IPV screening.