

Benefits of Interprofessional Collaboration for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students

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Abstract

Interprofessional collaboration is essential to serve and maximize outcomes for students who are deaf and hard of hearing. Speech-language pathologists, audiologists, otolaryngologists, and educators are among the many professionals that serve deaf and hard of hearing students. Although each of these professionals serve this population, interprofessional collaboration is often minimal and lacking. Strategies to implement successful interprofessional collaboration will be identified, as well as why interprofessional collaboration for the deaf and hard of hearing population is crucial. The impact of interprofessional collaboration on outcomes for deaf and hard of hearing students will also be discussed.

Learner Outcomes

At the culmination of this session, participants will be able to:

- Define interprofessional collaboration
- Identify three strategies for implementing successful interprofessional collaboration
- Describe why interprofessional education is necessary to promote future successful interprofessional collaboration

Introduction

Interprofessional collaboration: when two or more professionals from different fields work together with students and families to deliver the highest quality of care across settings and to provide comprehensive, integrated services in a health care environment of school setting

Successful Strategies

Establish a mission:

Establishing a mission, achieving consensus about the direction for collaboration, and establishing mutual goals are essential for interprofessional collaboration.

Pre-clinical interventions:

Professionals may be uncertain how other professional team members contribute to the intervention of the student. Through events like grand rounds, professionals can be educated on other professionals' practices and see how these other professionals implement intervention.

Communication:

Increase utilization of communication options, for example, written reports, setting up meetings (virtual and in-person), and email. Ensuring all professionals are open to effective communication will ensure better collaboration.

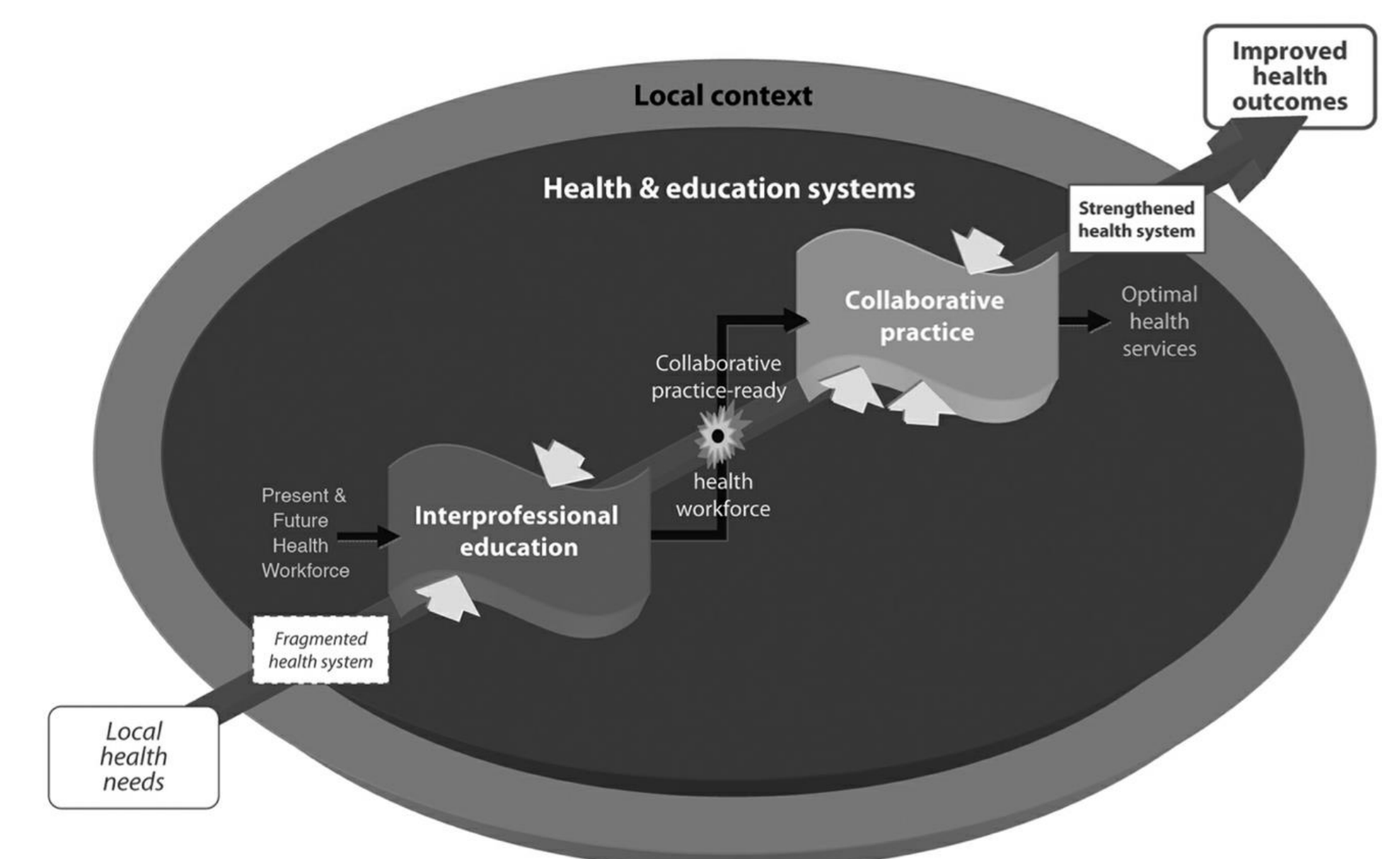
Common client goals:

Working together to achieve common goals throughout different types of sessions can reiterate objectives to students. For example, if the teacher of the deaf is working with the student to use self-advocacy strategies, the speech-language pathologist can use those strategies as examples when working on articulation.

Early education:

Interprofessional education is important for students preparing to work with clients who are deaf/hard of hearing. Ensuring students receive interprofessional education during graduate school classes, lectures, and other seminars will help students become efficient collaborators as they grow in their field.

Outcomes



Conclusion

The ultimate goal of interprofessional collaboration is to improve outcomes for students. Interprofessional collaboration can also be viewed as means of aligning professions in student and patient care and decision making. Utilizing successful strategies in daily practice will not only increase interprofessional collaboration over time, but also increase outcomes for clients, as well. Encouraging a healthy, high-satisfactory degree of interprofessional collaboration will encourage the best intervention and outcomes possible.

Acknowledgements

For references, please use this link:

