Collaboration: The Future of Health Care in Canada

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George Brown College, Toronto

A Presentation for Collaboration Across Borders II
May, 2009
We will describe the planning, implementation and evaluation of our first interprofessional course “Collaboration: The Future of Health Care in Canada”
About George Brown College

- George Brown College is an urban Toronto community college with various downtown campuses.

- The *Centre for Health Sciences*, with over 2,500 full time students, includes 17 programs organized within the four Schools of:
  - Nursing,
  - Dental Health,
  - Health and Wellness, and
  - Health Services Management.
Overview

Brief overview of the course:

- Initiated in September 2007
- 15 week, 42 hour General Education credit, offered every semester
- Each semester has involved between 90-210 students from 2-3 different health science programs
- Different program/student mix each semester
Overview

Students receive:

- A broad understanding of the role of collaboration and teamwork in health care
- An overview to the Canadian health care system
- An introduction to the role and scope of other professions
• Why was this course developed?
• How does this course fit into our overall IPE strategy?
• Link to our 4 IPE learning outcomes
Constraints and logistical issues

- Buy-in
- Scheduling
- Student mix
- Classroom spaces
- Faculty
Process

- Who, what, where, how?
Who has been involved

- Numbers
- Combinations
- Issues
Content and learning activities focus on:

- the broader health care system
- the roles and scopes of other professions
- applying the concepts of teamwork and group dynamics
- how collaboration and teamwork actually happen in real health care environments
Course organized around 3 components:

• Didactic component
• Interactive activities (in pairs, small and large groups)
• Application through a group capstone project
How the course has evolved

- Organizing groups
- Classrooms
- Content
- Faculty roles
- Group capstone assignment
- Student evaluation
• Student feedback
• Faculty satisfaction
• Demonstration of achievement of learning outcomes
**Product/Outcome**

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**GSSC 1053: Are we a Team? Confidential Peer Evaluation**

Print your name: ___________________________ Team #: ____________

On your own and without conferring with your teammates, rate each member of your team on each of the following statements. For each person, write down your score (from 1-5) after each statement, using the following scale...

1 = never; 2 = rarely; 3 = sometimes; 4 = mostly; 5 = always

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Print the name of each of your teammates in the boxes to the right&gt;</th>
<th>Name #1</th>
<th>Name #2</th>
<th>Name #3</th>
<th>Name #4</th>
<th>Name #5</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Shows equal commitment to our objective</td>
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<td>2. Takes part in deciding how work should be allocated</td>
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<td>3. Is committed to helping others learn</td>
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<td>4. Acknowledges good contributions from team members</td>
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<td>5. Handles disagreements and conflicts constructively within the team</td>
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<td>6. Is able to give constructive criticism to others and to accept it</td>
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<td>7. Turns up to meetings and stays to the end</td>
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<td>8. Is good at making sure that everyone knows what’s going on</td>
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<td>9. When one of us is under pressure, offers to help them</td>
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<td>10. Remains united even when we disagree</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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Remember, this is meant as a **confidential peer review** of your other team members and not for discussion. Please be prepared to submit this review, confidentially, to your professor when asked.

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Adapted from Levin, P. (2005) *Successful Teamwork*, pp 55-57
Product/Outcome

Students' ratings of the course

Percentage of responses

- Good
- Very good
- Outstanding

Fall 2007
Fall 2008
Looking Ahead

- Online-hybrid course delivery
- Refining student mix
- Increasing participation
“This course taught me to work better in teams by being more patient and understanding of everyone’s situation. I learned a lot especially from my classmates.”

“The experiences I had working within a team along with the information I learned from the course about team concepts, communication and feedback, leadership, conflict resolution and collaborative patient-centred practice have helped me gain a greater understanding of team dynamics”.

“During my experience in this course, I have learned that teamwork is an essential component within any field of specialization and collaborative skills enhance successful outcomes”.

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We welcome your interest in GBC. For more information please contact:

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