

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COLLEGE OF NURSING
COURSE SYLLABUS
Fall, 2000**

Course Number: Nursing 708

Course Title: Conceptual Basis for Family and Community Health Nursing

Credit Allotment: 3 Semester Hours

Time Allotment: Tuesdays 6-8:50 Room 409

Faculty: Michelle A. Liken PhD, RN, CS

Office: Room 519, College of Nursing

Office phone: (803) 777-7186

Office Hours: Mondays 2-3:30 and Tuesdays 4:30-6; and by appointment

Catalog Description: Key concepts, theories, and issues relevant to practice as a specialist in public health/community health nursing.

Curriculum Placement: Prerequisite or Corequisite - NURS 700

Course Overview: The focus of this introductory course is exploration of the major concepts and conceptual issues underlying the specialty of public health/community health nursing. The course is intended to assist students in clarifying conceptual issues in the specialty and in beginning to develop positions on critical issues related to access to care and analysis of existing delivery systems.

Course Objectives:

- 1. Review and critique research related to a selected community health clinical problem.**
- 2. Examine family theories and determine their relevance to nursing practice with families in the community.**
- 3. Analyze community health nursing practice with the family as client.**
- 4. Develop criteria, based on nursing and public health science, to guide the selection of interventions and alternatives appropriate for the clinical setting.**
- 5. Formulate methods for evaluating the effect of interventions on the health of the community.**
- 6. Examine current health care policy and the effect on the health of the community and the role of the PH/CH nurse.**
- 7. Explore political and ethical dimensions of environmental health issues**

Required Readings:

COURSE TEXTBOOK: Stanhope, M., & Lancaster, J. (2000). Community Health Nursing: Promoting Health of Aggregates, Families, and Individuals (5th ed.). St. Louis: Mosby.

READINGS (Available at Copy Pickup in Five Points):

Alexander, J. (1996). PowerPoint Notes Community Assessment

Courtney, R. (1995). Community Partnership Primary Care: A New Paradigm for

Primary Care. Public Health Nursing, 12(6), 366-373.

Davis, C.K., Oakley, D., & Sochalski. (1982). Leadership for Expanding Nursing

Influence on Health Policy. Journal of Nursing Administration, 12(1), 15-21.

Di Lima, S.N. (1997). Developing Successful Programs. Community Health Education and

Promotion: A Guide to Program Design and Evaluation. 189-218.

Friedman, M.M. (1998). The Friedman Family Assessment Model (Long Form). Family

Nursing Research, Theory & Practice. pp. 567-581. (4th ed.) Stamford, CN: Appleton

& Lange.

Kuehnert, P.L. (1991). The Public Health Policy Advocate: Fostering the Health of

Communities. Clinical Nurse Specialist, 5(1), 5-10.

Lum, M.R. (1995). Environmental Public Health: Future Directions, Future Skills.

Family Community Health, 18(1), 24-35.

Lynch, I., & Tiedje, L.B. (1991). Working with Multiproblem Families: An Intervention

Model for Community Health Nurses. Public Health Nursing, 8(3), 147-153.

Peters, D.A. (1995). Outcomes: The Mainstay of a Framework for Quality Care.

Readings in Community Health Nursing. Chap. 25, pp. 279-288.

Pollack, C.D. (1994). Planning for Success: The First Steps in New Program Development. Readings in Community Health Nursing. Chap. 21, pp. 233-

241.

Rheume, A., Frisch, S., Smith, A., & Kennedy, C. (1994). Case Management and

Nursing Practice. Readings in Community Health Nursing. Chap. 26, pp. 289-298. Lippincott-Raven.

Tiedje, L. B., & Wood, J. (1995). Sensitizing Nurses for a Changing

Environmental

Health Role. Public Health Nursing , 12(6), 359-365.

Recommended Reading:

American Psychological Association (1994). Publication manual of the American

Psychological Association. (4th ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Friedman, M. M. (1998). Family Nursing: Research, Theory, & Practice (4th ed.).

Stamford, CN: Appleton & Lange.

Helvie, C. O. (1998). Advanced Practice Nursing in the Community. Thousand Oaks,

CA: Sage.

Teaching Methods: Lecture, seminar, and discussion.

Learning Resources: Selected nursing research journals, public health journals, journals and textbooks related to public health nursing and Blackboard.

Student Activities: Students will articulate a personal philosophy of family and community, complete a two-part family care management plan that will include a comprehensive environmental assessment and plan within the selected family's community, and present an intervention designed to improve health among a selected community-based aggregate.

Evaluation Process:(Specific details regarding completion and grading of assignments will be given on the first day of class)

Personal Philosophy of Family and Community (5%)

Family Care Management Paper (35%)

Environmental Assessment and Plan (25%)

Promoting Healthy Aggregates Presentations/Building a Website (25%)

Attendance and Participation (10%)

(*attending/evaluating all peer presentations is mandatory)

Environmental Assessment and Plan (25%)

The purpose of this assignment is to give students an opportunity to complete a critical assessment and analysis of a family's immediate and larger environment. The student will continue to work with a vulnerable family in the community and extend the assessment and plan to the family's immediate and larger environment. The students, in analyzing data in formulating the care plan, will consider environmental justice issues such as SES, ethics, personal choice, values, power, knowledge, and control. In formulating the plan of care, students will incorporate principles related to understanding personal responsibility, advocacy, and empowerment.

Environmental Assessment and Plan Outline/Grading Criteria

Introduction (1pt) Description of the home, neighborhood, and community that includes: demographics information, history, and family's history in the environment (subjective data)

Environmental assessment (6pts) of home, neighborhood, and community that is structured and comprehensive (objective data) including: adequacy of home, neighborhood, and community to meet family's short and long term needs; actual and potential environmental hazards related to water, air, waste, heavy metals; and actual and potential psychosocial hazards (violence, crime, recreational)

Health issues (3 pts) (actual and potential) related to the environment health risks/hazards (address at home, neighborhood, and community level)

Environmental justice issues (2pts) including the relationship of actual and potential environmental health hazards and culture, social class, financial resources/limitations, free market, and NIMBY

Family values, roles, and function (1pts) in the larger environment (neighborhood and community)

#1 environmental health risk/hazard (actual or potential) (2pts) identified and why selected (short and long term sequale) (provide at least 2 citations on topic)

Goals (2pts) List at least 10 goals related to reducing environmental health hazard or risk identified that are measurable, objective, time limited, and realistic based on available resources. Specify goals for the family,

neighborhood and community level

Environmental plan of care (2pts) that includes incorporation of legal and political issues, incentives, values, and stewardship issues

Describe at least three essential roles of the APN (3pts) with the environmental plan of care described and provide rationale (citations) for why these roles are essential

Quality outcome monitoring (cost/benefit [long and short term] analysis) (1pt)

STYLE AND FORMAT (2pts) APA format used consistently (cover page, abstract, reference citation in body of paper, reference list, appendices Style: clarity, logical flow of paper (intro, section headers conclusion/summary) Grammar, typos

Total (out of 25)

**Sample Environmental Assessment and Plan Paper
Assignment
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Sample Environmental Assessment and Plan Paper

Environmental Assessment and Plan for a Vulnerable Family

Amanda A. Geddings
University of South Carolina

Abstract

Actual and potential environmental hazards are becoming an increasingly more common occurrence as communities grow and development occurs.

Unfortunately, these hazards often go unnoticed or ignored because of a lack of knowledge or recognition ability. One reason for the lack of recognition and response to these hazards is that some individuals and their families are already experiencing overwhelming personal stressors. The environment becomes a secondary issue when an individual's family structure is already vulnerable because of complex health issues and communication breakdown. The purpose of this paper is to perform a critical assessment and analysis of a vulnerable family's environment. Actual and potential environmental hazards will be identified along with goals and interventions at the family, neighborhood, and community level.

Introduction

According to Stanhope and Lancaster (2000), populations experiencing social, physical or psychological problems are considered vulnerable. Often times, the family's vulnerability forces them to focus all of their attention on maintaining the family unit. This requires a great deal of energy and it may leave the family too drained to either recognize or address the actual and potential environmental risks that surround them.

The purpose of this paper is to present an assessment of a vulnerable family's environment to include the development of goals and interventions for the family, neighborhood, and community. The family "C" was selected as the vulnerable family of interest because they are dealing with the complex health issue of infertility and facing the potential of divorce.

The "C" family is a Caucasian family living in the city limits of G., South Carolina. The family consists of three members. "B" is the father and husband. He is 32 years of age and works full-time as an accountant. "S" is the mother, wife and primary caregiver for their biological 18-month-old daughter "CC". S is 29 years of age and works full-time as a schoolteacher.

The family resides in a small, middle class subdivision that is approximately 5

years old. The neighborhood consists of 14 town homes. All of these residences appear to be in good repair. The family has lived in this community for 3 years. They report that they are happy and comfortable in their home. They also report that they are pleased with the community of G. and all that it has to offer to their family.

The city of G. was incorporated in 1886. It is situated between the towns of G. and S., and is approximately 20 square miles in area. It is located 15 miles from G. and 18 miles from S. Between 1980 and 1990, there was an increase in the city's population by approximately 11.74%. In 1997, it had an estimated population of 14,500. Since that time, the population has continued to grow steadily (G. Commission of Public Works [online]; March, 25, 2000).

Environmental Assessment

The family's house is a two-story town home that is five years old. At present, the home meets both the family's short and long-term needs. There are no identifiable air, water, waste, or heavy metal hazards in the home. It is in good structural repair. The sleeping, eating and bathing arrangements are adequate and there is good sanitation. The home and yard are kept tidy. However, the interior of the home is in need of being cleaned. For example, there is dust on the furniture, dishes in the sink from the last meal, and sticky places on the tile where CC has spilled milk from her cup. Also, the carpet is in need of being replaced. There are several pets in the home that have soiled the carpet in multiple places and these stains are not removable.

The overall safety of the home is in need of some improvement. There is a sufficient number of properly operating smoke detectors in the home. However, both B and S admit that they do not check the smoke detectors regularly because they forget. There is also no fire extinguisher in the home and the family does not have a fire evacuation plan. Adequate safety precautions are in place for CC such as outlet covers, gates in front of stairs, and safety locks on cabinets. All prescription medications are properly labeled. Also, all medicines, cleaners, and other potentially toxic substances are kept out of reach of CC.

The neighborhood is safe and in a low-crime area. There are no identifiable air, water, waste, or heavy metal hazards in the neighborhood. It is made up primarily of young families with school aged children. There are 14 houses within the family's subdivision and they all have tidy yards with no visible hazards. All pets are kept either chained or contained in fenced in yards per a county ordinance. There are sidewalks within the subdivision and a few streetlights. Overall, the neighborhood provides for the family's short and long-term needs except that the streets are not well lit in the subdivision. Although there are no current problems

with crime in the area, poorly lit streets can provide for an alluring environment for criminal activity.

At present, the community of G. provides for this family's short and long-term needs. The community as a whole has a low crime rate. There are fire and police stations within the town limits. There is a small town park for recreation. There are numerous businesses in the town, which provide basic needs such as groceries, gasoline, and retail services. There are several medical providers currently serving the community and there is a small hospital as well. In addition, there are two newly built schools for the children of G. However, the community does have several actual and potential environmental hazards that include air, water, and psychosocial issues.

One environmental hazard is a large 6-lane highway adjacent to the family's neighborhood that goes through the center of town. This highway is a potential hazard for several reasons. First, it is currently undergoing construction in several areas. The construction zones create a hazard because of the large volume of traffic on the road and the fact that the majority of motorists do not reduce their speed through these work areas. Also, the road is a potential hazard in terms of noise, pollution, and safety because of the large volume of traffic that uses the highway. In addition, there is no public transportation system in G. and this road, like many others in town, does not have sidewalks or crosswalks. The lack of sidewalks and crosswalks places pedestrians at risk of injury. While the C family owns 2 vehicles and does not have to walk, they do have to use this highway daily. Because of the lack of sidewalks and crosswalks, this family and other motorists are also placed in danger because they have to be concerned about the pedestrians.

Another potential hazard lies approximately one mile from this family's neighborhood at an abandoned gas station. It is difficult to determine how old this particular store is, but it has been closed for several years. Although the pumps have been removed, there are still storage tanks buried beneath the concrete that were used to house gasoline. These tanks can deteriorate over time and lead to a health hazard due to contamination of the surrounding soil and eventually the ecosystem. In addition, abandoned service stations like this one are unsightly and may become sites for illegal dumping or criminal activity. These problems can become complicating issues when developers attempt to restore these types of sites for productive use (Abandoned Gas Stations [online]; March 21, 2000).

In addition, another problem for the G. community is that there has been a growing trend in rural development while the downtown area has been gradually abandoned by businesses. For example, the majority of new businesses and both of the community's new schools are located on the outskirts of town. Many

businesses are being built in or relocated to urban shopping centers outside of the downtown area. These closings and relocations are presumably the result of shifting consumer demand to urban shopping areas on the edge of town. They represent a developing problem for the town of G. termed urban decay. This decay of the downtown area is occurring because of the rural growth trend and shift in consumer demand. It is a problem that needs to be addressed in order to prevent further deterioration and to promote the retention of those commercial services that are needed by the G. citizens.

Another problem for the community lies in the abandoned buildings that have been a direct result of this urban decay. For example, there are two schools downtown that were abandoned when new schools were built. There is also an abandoned mill in the downtown district. These abandoned buildings along with empty stores become a hazard because they may lure criminal activity, turn into dumping grounds, or become a dangerous playground for children in the area.

The abandoned mill is an especially dangerous site. The mill has been unused for several years and is located beside a small neighborhood. There is a pond behind the mill that was used as a cooling retention pond. Parts of the abandoned mill are enclosed in a fence, but the pond and the majority of the buildings are accessible to individuals in the surrounding neighborhood. This poses a hazard because children may decide to play in the buildings or beside the pond. Also, this site offers an alluring environment for criminal activity or illegal dumping.

In addition, the houses surrounding the mill are also a hazard. They were built during the 1950's and 1960's and very likely contain asbestos and lead-based paint. Several homes have been abandoned, but the majority are still occupied. Many of these residences are in poor repair and paint is peeling off of the houses. There are not only children living in the homes, but there are many children that play in this area and may subsequently be exposed to these hazards.

Health Issues

There are numerous actual and potential environmental hazards at the home, neighborhood, and community levels. Several actual health hazards are identifiable within the home. These include the absence of a fire extinguisher, routine assessment of proper smoke detector functioning, and a fire evacuation plan.

The overall lack of cleanliness of the home is a potential health hazard. It is the result of poor housekeeping and numerous indoor pets. While the family's overall health is good now, this type of environment promotes the growth of parasitic and

bacterial organisms that may lead to illness. This is especially a risk for a toddler with a developing immune system such as CC.

Health hazards at the neighborhood level include both actual and potential problems as well. Actual health hazards for the neighborhood include the exhaust pollution and noise from the adjacent 6-lane highway. As the area's population continues to grow these will become increasing risk factors for residents of the surrounding area. Large volumes of car exhaust can be detrimental to individuals' respiratory systems. This is especially true for those persons suffering from asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Also, the noise can have negative psychological effects because it permeates the sanctity of the residents' homes making it difficult for them to relax. It may also hinder people's enjoyment and subsequent use of the outdoors even within their own neighborhood.

A potential health hazard in the neighborhood is inadequate street lighting. At present, the neighborhood is in a low crime area and there are some streetlights throughout the subdivision. However, the number of lights is not adequate to safely visualize at night. This creates an alluring environment for a criminal and places the neighborhood at risk of becoming a target for illegal activity.

There are numerous actual and potential community health hazards. Actual risks include a lack of sidewalks, crosswalks, and public transportation. These create a real threat to both pedestrians as well as motorists. Also, although the road construction is needed, it too creates a risk to people because motorists are not reducing their speed as they should. This places both the road workers as well as the motorists at risk of harm. In addition, residents of the old mill houses are at risk of asbestos and lead-based paint exposure.

Potential risks for the community include the abandoned businesses, schools, mill houses, gas station, and mill. All of these are potential sites for criminal activity, illegal dumping, and hazardous playgrounds for local children. They are also unsightly and can thereby contribute to a decreasing desire for businesses to build in the downtown area. Thus, their presence contributes to the urban decay occurring within G. Also, the abandoned gas station has a storage tank buried at the site that has the potential to decay and subsequently pollute the surrounding soil.

Environmental Justice Issues

There are several actual and potential environmental health hazards that have been identified for this family's home, neighborhood, and community. While most of these are not environmental justice issues, three of them can be classified as

such. These include the abandoned gas station, the mill homes, and the process of urban decay.

The abandoned gas station is an environmental justice issue because it has a gasoline storage tank which may be leaking and polluting the surrounding area. The store has not been used in several years and is located near the downtown area. It is uncertain as to why the store was closed. However, it may be postulated that the owners were also affected negatively by the movement in commercial sales towards the suburban areas outside of town. Subsequently, their business began to decline and they too became a casualty of the downtown decay. Nevertheless, because the store is no longer in use it is probably not being monitored for safety and the potential for the breakdown of the building and the storage tank is high. The store is also at risk for illegal dumping and criminal activity. These types of problems impede the ability to use this property again for a business or residence. Therefore, it is very difficult to find a buyer interested in the property because of the financial cost of revitalizing the building and land for a productive use.

The deteriorating mill homes in the downtown area are another example of an environmental justice issue. These homes were built in the 1950's and 1960's. Many of them are still occupied although they are in poor repair. These homes more than likely contain asbestos and lead-based paint because of the time in which they were built. These pose severe health hazards to anyone living in the home. There are also children who play in and around these abandoned structures. They too may be exposed to these substances. The individuals living in this area are poor and for the most part elderly. Most of these elderly citizens are probably poorly educated about these health risks. However, even if they are aware of the risks, they could not afford to repair their homes. Moving for these people would also not be an option because of the cost and the lack of desire to relocate. Many of these people have probably made a great emotional investment to the area and have lived in this neighborhood for many years. Therefore, this becomes more than an environmental issue. It is also a cultural, educational, and financial issue as well.

A third environmental justice issue is the process itself of urban decay which is occurring in the town of G. Urban decay is not a problem that develops quickly. It is a gradually developing problem that often goes unnoticed until it has become rooted and a great deal of work is needed to reverse it. This is probably the process that has lead to G.'s decaying downtown area. The citizens and local clergy probably were unaware of this developing problem simply because of a lack of attention. Now they find themselves facing a future where they will have to travel outside of the town to receive commercial goods. Also, they are facing an increase in criminal activity and pollution as these abandoned sites grow in

number. A reversal of this process is possible, but will require a large investment from the town's citizens in terms of money, patience, and time. However, a revitalization of the downtown area is greatly needed in order to assure the future safety and prosperity of the town.

Family Values, Roles, and Functions

The majority of the problems which have been identified at the neighborhood and community level focus around the process of urban decay that is occurring in the downtown area. The C family recognizes that things are changing and the town is no longer as alive as it once was. They value having quick access to services such as retail stores and medical providers. They recognize that the urban decay will have a direct impact upon the availability of these services. They are also aware of the means by which they can support the revitalization of their town. However, they are largely involved in their own problems and at present are focusing all of their attention on maintaining their family unit.

Although recognized as real issues, for this family the urban decay is not a priority at this time. Becoming involved in community action for them is simply not an important issue, although it should be. It will take involvement from as many individuals and families as possible in order to restore the downtown area. While others may provide the financial support to rebuild the area, it will take additional community support to maintain this revitalization. However, this particular family is facing extreme stress and dealing with the real threat of divorce. Consequently, all of their energy is being channeled into maintaining their family unit's stability.

Primary Environmental Health Hazard

There are numerous actual and potential environmental safety issues for the C family. These hazards exist at the level of the home, neighborhood, and community. Collectively, these pose several threats to not only the family but also the surrounding community as a whole. As a result, the primary environmental health hazard is multi-level safety for the family and community.

The primary catalyst for this multi-level safety problem is the developing urban decay of G. This process has the potential to produce negative effects with both short and long-term consequences. For example, the short-term effects of the urban decay process include an increasing number of abandoned buildings. These make parts of the downtown area unsightly. Over time the buildings deteriorate further creating hazardous structures. These abandoned buildings may become dangerous playgrounds for children, sites of illegal dumping, or places for criminal

activity. Also, abandoned gas stations, like the one previously discussed, have the potential to become health hazards because of leaking underground tanks (Abandoned Gas Stations [online], March 21, 2000). The real or perceived environmental contamination at these sites then complicates the redevelopment of these facilities (USTfields Initiative [online], March 21, 2000). Also, the continued deterioration of the older homes within the downtown area creates further health risks because of asbestos and lead-based paint exposure. Both asbestos and lead-based paint are not health hazards unless the condition of the home becomes such that these substances are made friable. At that point, either substance can be inhaled or ingested and pose a severe threat to one's health (EPA Region 6- Toxics- Asbestos [online], March 31, 2000; Lead-Based Paint: Public Health Threat [online], March 31, 2000). The deteriorating mill homes are subsequently placing the local residents at risk for such an exposure.

Long-term effects of urban decay include the loss of essential commercial and retail businesses in the downtown area. With this decrease in businesses comes a loss of economic growth for the town. This then contributes to the town's deterioration because there are no funds for environmental cleanup or restoration. An increase in criminal activity will occur with continued decay of the business infrastructure. This will be the result of growing empty storefronts, abandoned businesses, and a dwindling economy. These problems will contribute to a viscous cycle of further deterioration because new businesses and investors will be leery to put money into the town. Families, such as this one, will no longer feel safe in their own town and will have to travel greater distances for services that were once readily available.

Goals

Based upon this environmental assessment, there are numerous goals that can be developed to reduce or eliminate environmental safety risks. The following are goals developed for the family, neighborhood, and community that focus on promoting multi-level family safety and reversing the urban decay of the G. community.

1. The family will purchase a fire extinguisher for the home by April 10, 2000.
2. The family will decide upon a date to check the smoke detectors each month for proper functioning by April 10, 2000.
3. The family will develop a fire evacuation plan and rehearse it by April 10, 2000.
4. The neighborhood will organize a car pool for the school children by April 10, 2000 to help reduce the number of automobiles contributing to their local noise, pollution, and traffic.
5. The neighborhood will organize a crime watch program by April 15, 2000.
6. The community will organize a community action committee by May 1, 2000 for the purpose of promoting citywide safety and reversing the current state of

urban decay.

7. The community action committee will request that the G. city police department increase their monitoring of motorists' speeds in the city's construction zones by April 20, 2000.

8. The community action committee will request that city council investigate the cost and feasibility of implementing a citywide public transportation system by April 20, 2000.

9. The community action committee will request that city council vote on the construction of additional sidewalks and crosswalks along streets of high pedestrian activity within the city by April 20, 2000.

10. The community action committee will organize volunteers by April 25, 2000 to pick-up trash and mow grass at abandoned lots to keep the city beautiful and to decrease the likelihood that these lots will become areas of illegal dumping and criminal activity. This group will also plant flowers and shrubs in desolate parts of the downtown area as part of a beautification process.

11. The community action committee will request on May 1, 2000 that city council elect a committee to seek private and public sponsors to assist the city in a long-term revitalization plan for the city of G.

12. The community action committee will organize a neighborhood awareness meeting by May 15, 2000 for residents of the mill houses in G. This meeting's agenda will include discussing the risks of asbestos and lead-based paint exposure, ways to prevent these risks, how their homes can be tested for these risks, and to encourage lead level testing for all children residing in these homes.

Environmental Plan of Care

The environmental plan, as indicated previously, is based upon the primary environmental health hazard of multi-level safety for the family and community. This hazard is the basis for each of the above listed goals and its primary catalyst is the city's urban decay. In order for this environmental plan to be affective, there must be considerable support from the family, neighborhood, and community to achieve these goals. There must also be a commitment to the continued process of goal development with a focus on further improvements in the city's safety and reversal of citywide urban decay.

Several issues must be considered in order to evaluate whether or not the necessary support will be available to achieve the implementation of this plan. These include assessment of values, incentives, stewardship issues, and political concerns. For example, the individuals involved in this plan must value the achievement of these goals or they will not participate. For example, the family must want to improve the safety of their home before they will purchase a fire extinguisher, identify a specific date to routinely check their smoke detectors, or practice a fire evacuation plan. Also, the members of the community must want to

improve the city's safety, appearance, and economic growth. If they do not value improving the city's safety or reversing urban decay, they will not agree to become volunteers in the crime watch program, become active on the community action committee, or provide any other form of political or financial support.

Incentives must also be evaluated in order to successfully implement this environmental plan. The family must have an incentive in order to get them to achieve their goals. Improving the fire safety within their home means that they decrease their risk of experiencing a fire induced injury or the loss of their home as the result of a fire. There must also be community support for a revitalization program. The incentive for community residents is that the plan will assist in the reversal of the city's urban decay. This will in turn assist in the prevention of crime, will aid in the beautification of the city, and will promote economic growth because it will draw businesses back into the downtown area. Improved economic growth for the city means that there will be more revenue to be put back into the community and it also improves the likelihood that outside commercial businesses will view the city as a desirable place to locate. Along with these new businesses will come additional employment opportunities for the community's residents.

Another area that must be assessed is that of stewardship issues. There must be not only overall community interest in this endeavor, but there must be individuals within the community who are willing to be members on the community action committee. These persons must be willing to donate their time and be ready to speak out publicly on these issues. These persons must be willing to take the risk that fellow members of their community may not agree with their views. They have to also be ready to deal with the frustrations of obtaining the necessary financial support and the long-term time commitment involved in a citywide revitalization program.

Another important concern that must be assessed is that of political influences. In order for a long-term, costly revitalization program to be implemented, there must be support from those individuals with political power in the community. For example, if members of the city council cannot be persuaded to support this plan it will never be implemented. The councilmen's constituents have to demonstrate their support of the issue and express that they may no longer support their elected officials if they do not back the issue.

Essential Advanced Practice Nurse Roles

Advanced practice nurses (APN) have the ability to function in many different roles. An APN is the ideal individual to perform a multi-level environmental assessment because they approach the process using a holistic viewpoint. They

use their holistic outlook to assist them in identifying vulnerable families and communities through outreach and case findings. Once identified, they again draw upon their holistic viewpoint and cultural knowledge base to assist them in establishing a relationship with the vulnerable group. Through this partnership, the APN is able to further assess their environment and develop an appropriate environmental plan of care (Stanhope & Lancaster, 2000).

One of the primary functions that an APN fulfills is that of an educator for clients. Within this multi-level environmental plan, the clients are the family, neighborhood, and community. The multi-level education plan centers on safety promotion and prevention, behavior modification, and promotion of community growth and development. The APN has the knowledge base to assist the client with obtaining and utilizing available community resources. They are able to help vulnerable individuals and communities with developing programs that respond to their needs. They are also able to teach multi-level clients measures to prevent illness and promote health (Stanhope & Lancaster, 2000).

A third role that the APN performs within this process is that of an advocate for the client. They focus on what is best for the client both in terms of short and long-term needs. Their purpose is to assist the clients with identifying hazards within their environment and then identifying means through which the client can resolve these health risks. They counsel clients about ways to increase their sense of personal empowerment and assist them with identifying their own strengths and resources (Chez, 1994). They strive to assist vulnerable populations with achieving a sense of personal empowerment that will enable them to carry out the plan and achieve the goals for healthy outcomes. By promoting a sense of empowerment within the client, the APN is enabling them to function independently in the continued management of their environment (Stanhope & Lancaster, 2000).

Quality Outcome Monitoring

This environmental plan of care focuses on multi-levels of safety promotion and centers around the reversal of citywide urban decay. Goals have been developed for the family, neighborhood, and community. The ultimate goal being that the residents of G. will come together and support a revitalization program for the city. If implemented, this program will promote the reversal of the city's urban decay process and it will result in many short and long-term benefits for the residents of G. The short-term benefits include a safer environment and a more attractive city in terms of reduced litter and the beautification program. Long-term benefits include a resurgence in the downtown district with new businesses moving into the area, economic growth for the city, and new interests by outside commercial businesses to relocate to the city of G. Ultimately, an overall feeling

of cohesiveness will develop within residents of the city because of their contributions to the revitalization process.

Along with the benefits of this environmental plan, there are short and long-term costs that must be considered as well. For example, there will be the short-term costs to the family in terms of money and time. They will have to invest both time and money in order to purchase a fire extinguisher, check their smoke detectors, and develop a fire evacuation plan. Members of the neighborhood who participate in the car pool and crime watch program will be donating their time and this is a cost that not everyone will be willing to invest. Members of the community who donate their time and money to the community action committee and beautification program are also making contributions to the revitalization process. In addition, there are also large expenditures of money that will need to be done by the city in order to succeed at reducing the city's urban decay. As the project takes off and further planning takes place, the city may find that new city complexes may need to be built or that additional interstate accesses need to be constructed to lure outside businesses into the area. The city may also have to make monetary deals with large commercial industries in order to get them to move into the city. These deals may include reduced property prices that will be a short-term cost to the city or they may include reduced city taxes that can impact the city long-term.

The long-term benefits for the community as a whole, based on the above environmental plan, exceeds the cost involved at each level of intervention. Improving multi-level safety and initiating a citywide revitalization program will provide indisputable benefits for not only the family, but the neighborhood and community as well.

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