IMPORTANCE OF HEALTH POLICY IN THE DNP PROJECT

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Health Policy and the DNP

- DNP Essential V: Health Care Policy for Advocacy in Health Care
  - *Governmental actions*
  - *Institutional decision making*
  - *Organization standards*
- "…creating a health care system that meets the needs of its constituents" (AACN, 2006, p. 14)
- Design, influence, and implement health care policies that frame health care financing, practice regulation, access, safety, quality, and efficacy (IOM, 2001)

Real Life Importance

- Regardless of our role, we are impacted by Health Policy…
    - *BSN in 10 (Nurse Educators)*
    - *Affordable Care Act (all healthcare workers)*
    - *Opioid Management*
    - *Staffing Ratio Bills (Nurse Leaders)*
    - *Access to Care (Practice Authority) (Nurse Practitioners)*
- Do you know who's making decisions on how you practice?

The Role of Policy in the DNP Project: Which comes first?

- Policy may guide the project

- Practice and evidence may guide policy

- Policy should be guided by the evidence-based research and DNP Project
  - *Background and Significance*
  - *Needs Assessment*
  - *Implications*

What can a Health Policy DNP Project Look Like?

Policy Intervention — *Expert testimony; content experts; gain legislative support*

Legislation Evaluation — *Identification of successes/obstacles to legislation; how to measure outcomes; sustainability*
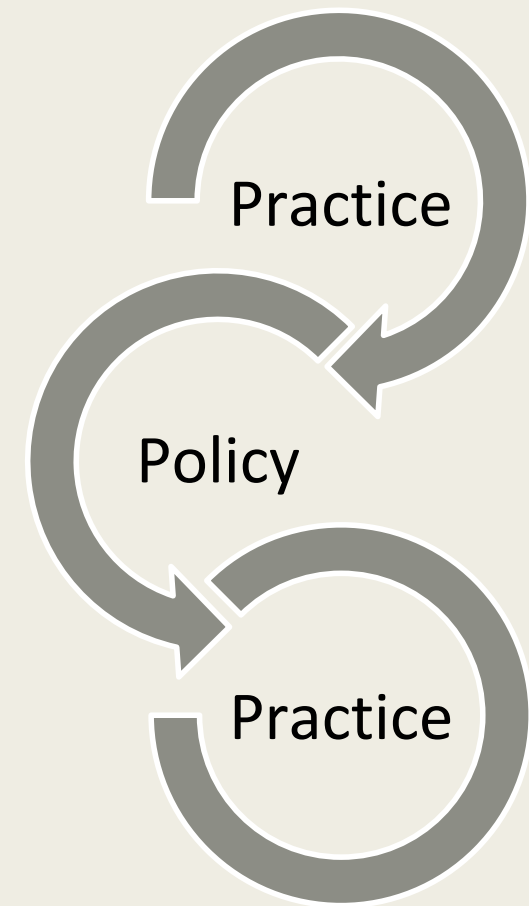
Work with a Community-based Action Group

CREATING A LEGACY

Sample DNP Projects

- National Level Influence
  - *APRN Practice Authority*
- State Level Influence
  - *Opioid Crisis*
  - *Preparing for Legalized Marijuana*
- Organizational Level Influence
  - *Sickle Cell Crisis Pain Protocol*

Practice

Policy

Practice

Challenges of Policy Focused Projects

- "Non-traditional" projects
  - *Faculty comfort level*
  - *Implementation strategies*
    - Policy change may be hypothetical v true implementation
    - Students may not be in position of authority to execute policy change
  - *Evaluation process may not include traditional statistical analysis*
    - Variation in approach to evaluation
    - Evaluation of advocacy v actual impact of policy change
    - Level of policy

Policy Solutions

- Start with analysis of the problem that impacts the patient/population
- Investigate from a lens of:
  - *Organizational Policy*
  - *Local/Community Policy*
  - *State Policy*
  - *National Policy*
  - *Professional Policy*
  - *Personal Policy (ethics)*
- Catalog a list of advocacy activities
- Measure outcomes of advocacy activity
- Determine evaluation points for the DNP Project
- Incorporate use of social media to advance the agenda

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