Introducing Trauma Informed Care and Child Sexual Abuse Prevention into Medical Education

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IDEA

In order to better prepare future physicians to care for patients who are survivors of child sexual abuse and sexual violence, a study to determine the effectiveness of providing trauma informed care training to first year medical students will be conducted. The effectiveness of the study will be determined by an assessment and survey following a lecture describing trauma informed care and small group sessions with standardized patients.

NEED/ RATIONALE

One in nine girls and one in fifty-three boys in the United States are victims of child sexual abuse.

50% of women experience some form of sexual violence

25% of men experience some form of sexual violence

Further, there are potentially lifelong negative health outcomes and behaviors associated with sexual violence:

• Higher rates of unintended pregnancy
• Higher rates of depression and anxiety
• Increased risk of using illegal drugs
• Increased incidence of medical disorders such as migraines and cardiovascular disease

In order to facilitate this training students will participate in:

• A one hour duration lecture on trauma informed care, signs of child sexual abuse and methods of prevention of child sexual abuse
• A two hour training session in small group settings where students work with standardized patients through case based scenarios and have the opportunity to practice trauma informed care
• A survey, which allows students to rate the effectiveness of the training session in preparing them to treat patients who are survivors of sexual assault.
• An assessment that covers the important steps in providing trauma informed care and preventing child sexual abuse.

METHODS

In order to measure the effectiveness of introducing a trauma informed care curriculum into the first year of medical education, an entire class of first year medical students at the Brody School of Medicine will be invited to participate in a training program that aims to prepare future physicians to treat patients who are survivors of sexual violence. All students of the cohort will be invited to participate in the training session via email. The email will contain a survey asking the students if they are aware of the concept of trauma informed care and if they would consent to participating in a training program to learn how to implement this concept into their medical education. While all students will receive an invitation to complete the survey and to participate in the study, the choice to undergo training will be optional.

POTENTIAL IMPACT

The effectiveness of this training will be analyzed using a student satisfaction survey and a content assessment. If the results indicate the training significantly benefited students and adequately prepared them to care for sexual violence survivors and to identify and prevent sexual abuse, then discussions will be had to attempt to include this training program into the medical education curriculum for all first year students at the Brody School of Medicine.

The Training Program Outline:

One Hour Lecture on Trauma Informed Care and Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

Assessment on Program Content

Two Hour Small Group Session with Standardized Patients

Survey on Student Satisfaction

REFERENCES