Project Title: Vanderbilt Certificate in Population Health

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Collaborators:
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Background, Challenge or Opportunity:
Today’s health professionals, researchers, educators and leaders must be prepared to address health issues at the population level, which requires an understanding of 1) community and population-level factors that influence health; 2) social, environmental and cultural determinants of health; and 3) the broad range of healthcare delivery systems. Although Vanderbilt excels in training students to deliver the highest quality of care to individuals, there is limited education and training in population health. A Certificate program in Community and Population Health will build on institutional expertise in prevention, community health, community engaged research, behavioral health, health equity research, public health, health policy and informatics and will serve as a nidus for education, training and interdisciplinary collaborations to advance the field of population health.

Purpose/Objectives:
To develop a Certificate in Community and Population Health for masters and doctoral degree students at Vanderbilt University.

Methods/Approach:
The approach to developing the certificate program requires the engagement of key institutional programs within and beyond the medical center, development of a value proposition and development of a curriculum. Specific steps include the following:
(1) Obtaining input and buy-in from leaders of key programs related to community and population health including IMPH, medical education, school of nursing, mph, ethics, global health, health policy. (a) Meet with key medical center leaders who represent stakeholder programs. (b) Interview leaders outside medical center.
(2) Eliciting input from medical center administrative leaders, including finance and operations.
(3) Developing value proposition certificate program.
(4) Recruiting members and convene Certificate in Population Health Steering Committee.
(5) Presenting proposal for certificate program and corresponding budget to institutional leadership.

Outcomes and Evaluation Strategy:
The key outcomes (deliverables) of the project are the development of the proposed certificate program in population health, creation of the population health steering committee, development of the curriculum, and creation of a value proposition. The evaluation strategy includes process measures- number of meetings with institutional leaders, number of steering committee meetings and participation level of committee members. Intermediate outcomes include cataloging existing trans-institutional courses, lectures and other educational programs with relevance to population health, creation of a database of faculty with scholarly expertise in areas relevant to population health, and completion of semi-structured interviews with administrators to identify barriers to implementing the certificate program and strategies to facilitate rapid uptake.
The Certificate program will provide opportunities to: (1) co-promote programs, share content across schools, (2) develop educational modules and courses, and (3) leverage existing programs to increase the prominence of population health within and beyond the University. To date, we have created the steering committee, conducted key informant interviews and begun to catalog existing lectures and courses. The steering committee submitted a proposal to create a Population Health Collaborative.