

NURS 515 Quality Leadership and Population Health in Health Care		
Date	Activity	Signature
2/13/24	8am-4pm shadow school nurse Randy Roosa	<i>Randy Roosa</i>
2/14/24	8am-4pm shadow school nurse Randy Roosa	<i>Randy Roosa</i>
2/15/24	8am-12pm shadow school nurse Randy Roosa	<i>Randy Roosa</i>

*Brandon Romero's contact hours experience

I was able to interview and shadow a school nurse for my contact hours. It was a great experience to witness how this type of advanced practice public health nurse takes care of the school community. The roles of a school nurse typically include providing basic healthcare services, administering medications, conducting health screenings, managing immunization records, educating staff on health-related topics, managing chronic health conditions, responding to medical emergencies, and collaborating with parents, teachers, and healthcare providers to promote overall wellness in the school community. I was also able to interview and spend time with a public health nurse that's done community care for the Central California Veteran's Affairs for a majority of her career. She helped develop the HPACT (Homeless Patient Aligned Care Teams) to help the homeless Veteran community. She talked about how she developed the policies and scope of practice for the registered nurses in the program, oversaw the registered nurses' practice, conducted patient assessments at emergency transition housing for the homeless, and also once they were housed conducted quarterly medical visits for them to see how they're doing, whether they're keeping their appointments, and taking their medications. She also conducted home based primary care before leading this program, visiting home bound or complex care Veterans in their homes to see them and provide primary care services for them, trying to help reduce the rate of Emergency Department visits. One thing I found very interesting was that during the pandemic, she was able to have nurses go out with a Bluetooth EKO stethoscope and it would send her EKG's, lung sounds, belly sounds, and heart sounds all via Bluetooth.

*Share a specific challenge or situation you encountered during your field experience. How did you address it, and what were the outcomes for the patient's care or the population you were serving?

I was able to discuss a situation with the school nurse I shadowed where a student with autism was struggling with classes and homework. I learned about how they have IEP meetings where the nurse joins to help assess and evaluate progress with how the student is learning and functioning in school. The other participants in the meeting included teachers, special education teachers, and sometimes the parents also join the meetings. The student was able to verbalize understanding of methods taught to assist his functioning and learning in school, and everyone collaborated to evaluate and offer ideas to further assist the student.

*What are some lessons that you have learned during your field experience that you can apply to your future practice?

I learned how much of a difference and influence public health nurses can make on a community, such as school nurses or the homeless and home health care nurses. It's important as a nurse to keep an eye out for issues or vulnerabilities in order to promote change and implement plans to address them. Nurses have an important duty of advocating for their patients, and we can especially learn from how public health nurses advocate for whole communities.