

Community Wellness Program Re-Imagined for Sustainability, IPE, and Enhanced Student Learning

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Purpose

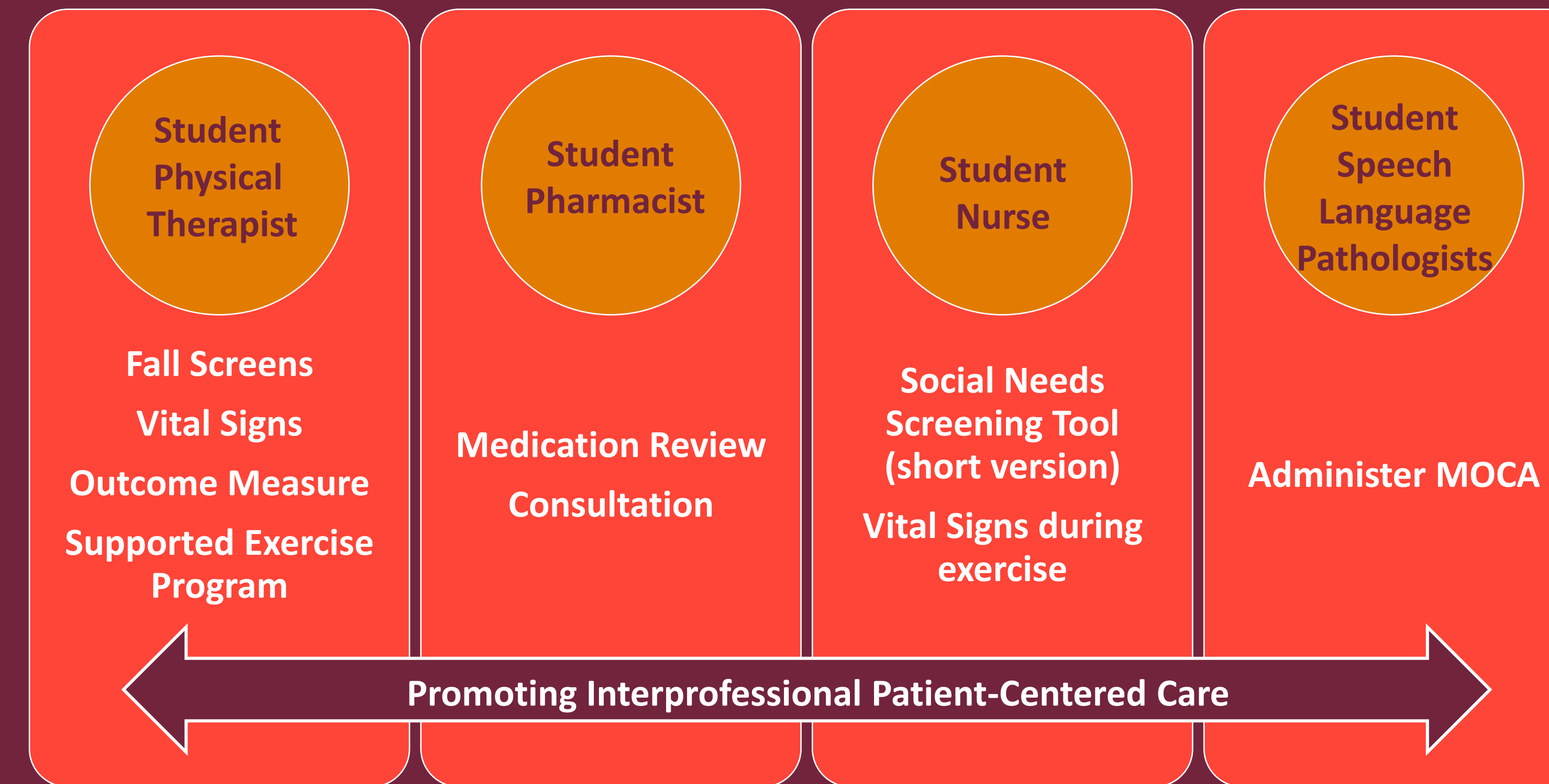
Intentional re-envisioning of UMPT's long-standing onsite community wellness program, New Directions Wellness Center (NDWC) occurred during a two-year COVID closure. The center has been dedicated to serving people with chronic illness and disability since the late 90's and our goal was to integrate interprofessional students into the center. The purpose of this abstract is to outline how we have developed this new delivery model and how we are using this valuable community resource and service to enhance student learning.

Description

UMPT curriculum model structure provides for didactic courses in the mornings and integrated part-time clinical experiences (ICE) in the afternoon. This structure allowed us to create a model in which students work in NDWC in the afternoons.

PT students will spend 15 hours each semester, under distant supervision of our clinical faculty, providing functional capacity and fall risk screening as well as assisting community members with exercise.

Collaboration of faculty is vital to the sustainability of this interprofessional, community accessible wellness center. The newly created faculty leadership team collaborates in multiple ways to help support accreditation, scholarship, curriculum, and community service. The vision and purpose of NDWC has now become a vital part of UMPT for both students and faculty.



Outcomes

- 34 clients served
- 15 of 18 ambulatory clients identified as fall risk
- SPT Volunteers
 - Spring 2022: 22, 75 total hours; Fall 2022: 12, 45 total hours
- IPE Fall 2022
 - RN: 4 scheduled for a total of 7 afternoons (1/afternoon)
 - SLP: 6-8, scheduled for orientation in Oct
 - 25% SLP Faculty supervision for administration
 - PharmD: Faculty & assigned PharmD student

Sustainability

- Philanthropic donations
- Monthly membership fees paid by clients or Medicaid/Medicare wellness benefits
- Grant support from the Montana Geriatric Education Center, addressing fall reduction in older adults
- Interprofessional health care faculty input and mentoring
- Integration into the core curriculum of health care programs

Conclusions

As difficult as it was, the COVID19 pandemic provided us with an opportunity to reflect, regroup, and reimagine the potential for this long standing community accessible resource on campus. We believe that we have created a more sustainable model that offers an opportunity for interprofessional learning and collaboration between our current and future health care providers.