

Assessment

Faith Community Nurse Foundations Course: FCNN
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Outcomes:

1. *Examine various approaches for assessing geographical communities.*
2. *Use appropriate evidence-based assessment techniques and instruments in collecting pertinent data as a basis for wholistic care.*
3. *Synthesize available data, information and knowledge relevant to the situation to identify patterns and variances in individuals, families and groups or the faith community.*

Adapted from Foundations of Faith Community Nursing course based on the curriculum developed through the Westberg Institute for Faith Community Nursing, which is owned by Spiritual Care Association, New York, NY

Outcome 1: Examine various approaches for assessing geographical communities.

Geographical Assessment: gathering baseline data about resources and gaps in resources available to meet the needs of individuals and groups.

A faith community nurse who lives in the suburbs of a large city is hired to work as the FCN in an urban area of that city. She is unfamiliar with this urban area but is aware that the faith community is far more culturally diverse than the community in which she lives and worships.

Why would it be helpful for the FCN to do a “**geographical assessment**” of this faith community (beyond the walls of the building?)

If you were this FCN, what would you try to assess?

There are many types of communities:

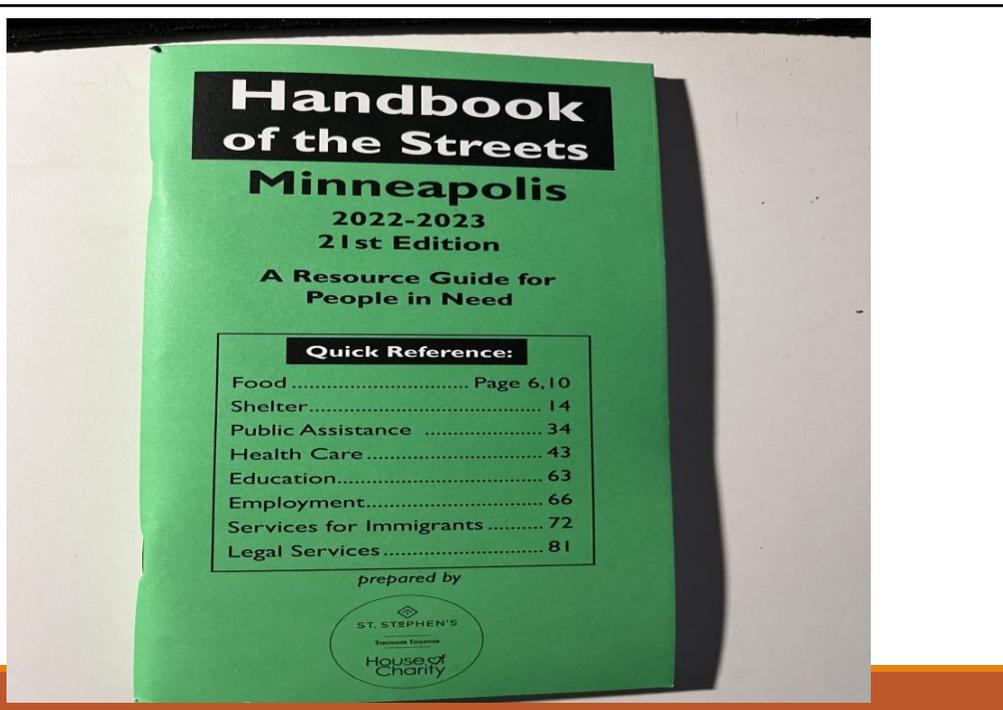
- **Geographical:** defined by geographic boundaries
- **Geopolitical:** defined by interactions between schools, social services, government agencies and their ability to solve problems. (Ex: School District)
- **Phenomenological:** defined by common values or interests (Ex: Religious groups; social groups; hobby groups, etc)

And, within those communities, there are many different factors you could include in your assessment.



Methods for Geographic Assessment

- ✓ **Windshield Survey:** Driving or walking through an area and making organized observations.
- ✓ **Participant observation**
- ✓ **Interviews**
- ✓ **Statistical data**
(census data, public documents minutes from meetings, etc)



Outcome 2:

Use appropriate evidence-based assessment techniques and instruments in collecting pertinent data as a basis for wholistic care.

In addition to a geographic assessment, you will want to more specifically assess the faith community you will serve.

Break out-groups—identify 3 things you'd want to know about your faith community before you start proposing interventions?

Assess the staff, leadership, roles, functions and physical setting of the faith community:

- Who comprises the staff? What are their roles?
- Who are leaders (both official and unofficial?)
- Who are the decision-makers?
- What is the culture (unwritten rules, history, gender roles, etc)
- Are financial and human resources adequate?
- What is the mission? Vision?
- Are members willing to volunteer?
- Are meeting places safe?



Assess the members of your faith community, as a whole for:

- Age; gender; race; ethnicity; culture; intergenerational?
- Predominant health concerns
- Support for faith community nursing
- Do members believe a faith community has a role in helping members meet health needs?
- Employment issues/Financial issues/Transportation issues
- Are there health professionals within the faith community?
- Interpersonal dynamics; relational dynamics
- Spirituality (beliefs about hope, dying, suffering, healing)

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You've learned about spiritual assessments earlier in this course.

On page 284 of your participant guide, there are several examples of questions you could use with a patient or patient's family.

In your small group, choose three questions your group thinks would help a FCN get a good idea of the spirituality of a 35 year old client who has recently been diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor.

**Assess individuals:
See Page 285 of your Participant manual to review tips and resources for conducting individual and family assessments.**

Health risk appraisal (HRA)

<https://assess.health/>

Friedman Family Assessment Model

Family health history

Familyhistory.hhs.gov/FHH

**Go to your “Digital Tools For FCNs”
and see assessment tools.**



Outcome 3: Synthesize available data, information and knowledge relevant to the situation to identify patterns and variances in individuals, families, groups or the faith community as a whole.

Our time for today will end now so that you can take the next 30 minutes to work on this outcome by writing down your answers to these questions:

- 1. What do I need to assess about the faith community I plan to serve or another type of community I hope to serve?**
 - Geographic assessment?** (economics, literacy, resources, etc)
 - Staff/volunteers of this community** (decision-makers, culture, etc)
 - Members of this community?** (age, health issues, support for FCN, etc)
- 2. How will I use the nursing process once I’ve gathered this data to make a nursing diagnosis and plan?**

Please be prepared to report back on Tuesday, April 5.

To be sure you're taking care of yourself, please don't spend more than 30 minutes on this assignment and then, have a good evening and weekend!

Feedback from today's sessions or this week?

Who would like to offer a prayer as we leave?

Blessings on you over the next few weeks as your journey to becoming an FCN continues.

Welcome back!

Let's open with prayer.

Any questions? Concerns? Needs?



Dedication Service on 10/29—At the dedication service, we will ask each of you to share one of the below in less than 1 minute! (Please honor this time limit!)

- **Favorite scripture reading or meaningful quote.**
- **A statement of why you feel "called" to this ministry of FCN.**
- **What this course has meant to you.**

Now we're going to discuss the assessment you were assigned to do on at our last session.

You were to write down what you need to assess, or what you have assessed regarding your faith community or community you plan to serve.

We'll go to Break Out Groups for **10 minutes now**.

Take turns (try to be fair with the time for each of you) and share your assessment assignment.

If you have time, please also discuss what you will do with the assessment data you collect? Will you identify a "nursing diagnosis" and plan?

Once you have your assessment data:

- 1. Identify common threads and gaps in the faith community/ individuals/families that a FCN might address.**
- 2. List the assets of the faith community and take a positive approach.**
- 3. Develop a nursing diagnosis:**
 Risk of _____ faced by _____
 related to _____

Examples: Risk of falls faced by senior members related to lack of training in fall prevention.

Risk of loneliness and isolation related to Covid-19.

4. Establish priorities (are they in line with the priorities of the faith community?)

5 Set realistic, measurable goals:

a. Early, small successes

b. Evaluation is crucial

c. Find and use resources (you don't have to do this alone!!)

Our next module will give you some great suggestions.

d. Consider your limitations and your boundaries!

Pray, Smile, Breathe and Go Slowly

Case study: You have started your ministry and begin with assessing assets, needs and resources of your faith community. As part of your assessment, you've been doing a lot of listening and observing. You have heard complaints from members about the pastor/priest and his/her lack of communication and compassion. You've also heard positive comments about the pastor/priest, so you're not sure how to handle what you've heard. What, if anything, do you say or do with the negative comments you hear?

Case study: You are attending worship as the new FCN and you hear a "thud." You quickly realize that a member of the choir has fallen to the floor. What do you do?

Does your faith community have an emergency plan in place for medical situations?

Case study: You are in a staff meeting and a staff member states that a barrier to members being vaccinated for Covid is an outspoken member who is "anti-vaccines." This member has been discouraging others from being vaccinated and refuses to have her children vaccinated for common childhood illnesses. What do you do, as the FCN?

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What questions do you have about Assessment?

Survey Monkey Evaluation—then back for the Accessing Resources Module.