SWOT ANALYSIS:

Problem: Patient centered care at my clinical setting (general outpatient psychiatry)

Strengths

- -The PMHNP is empathetic with patients, providing emotional and spiritual support. Patients are receptive to the 'MI' spirit and highly value the care of the PMHNP.
- -PMHNPs are able to practice independently. There is effective communication among all team members and prescribers.
- -Each team member is able to identify their role in the patient's treatment and safety plan.
- -I have seen respect shown among team members, including the psychiatrist, PMHNP, case manager, therapist, nurse and secretary.
- -From my perspective, the multidisciplinary teams function well together and collaborate with one another.
- -Team members are accepting and open to one another regardless of ethnic or cultural background. There is diversity, which makes patients feel comfortable.
- -Providers exhibit evidence-based practice relating to the DSM-5 and administration of psychotropics.
- -Safety is a big part of patient-centered care and considered the most important factor in the treatment plan.
- -All providers are aware and knowledgeable about patient safety. Risk factors and symptoms are identified and treated.

Weaknesses

- -Psychiatrists are more resistant and uncomfortable with change versus the PMHNP who goes with the flow of the 'MI' spirit.
- -Weaknesses in scientific basis for practice are valued by the PMHNP whereas psychiatrists become more defensive.
- -Seeking to understand patient values is less valued by psychiatrists compared with the PMHNP.
- -Respect towards the centrality of the patient is lower with psychiatrists and higher with the nursing team, case managers, and therapists. It seems there is a misunderstanding of goals associated with patient centered care
- -The use of research evidence and clinical expertise is high, but lower in identifying and incorporating patient/family values among psychiatrists.
- -Relying solely on research is negatively affecting patientcentered care, leading to misdiagnosis and medication misuse.
- -I have noticed there is not always standardized terminologies used among providers, which as a student was not helpful. This was dependent on the provider.
- -There are potential financial requirements for training/education and funding is limited.

Opportunities

- -The PHMNP is able to incorporate psychotherapy during patient visits, so there is hope for psychiatrists to do this as well with educational opportunities.
- -Utilizing change management would be beneficial for all providers who have difficulty adjusting to change.
- -A quality improvement project may include education on the importance and value of patient-centered care.
- -It is necessary to educate patients of their input into their own care.
- -Asserting leadership is essential to convey the importance and shape the dialogue regarding patient-centered care, which is best psychiatric practice.
- -Essential information is available to educate patients and families. In my opinion, information access is not being utilized enough.
- -Participatory research could elicit meaningful cultural insight into barriers of mental health utilization.

Threats

- Minimal empathy is affecting patient attitudes toward provider, yet this does not seem to be a priority in face of meeting certain quality goals.
- -I anticipate difficulty with getting providers on board with change management, especially those who are older and have practiced for years primarily under the medical model.
- Right now, patient-centered care is not valued as a whole. I believe the definition of patient-centered care is not being clearly identified.
- -Patient centered care may lower the rates of psychotropic polypharmacy, financially affecting business and pharmaceutical companies. Funding this GOP is reduced as it is.
- Communication regarding polypharmacy is not evident and some patients appear over- medicated.
- -The attitude within the quality improvement meeting I attended was unappreciative and not valued as essential. No providers were in attendance.
- -Some providers document during the session with the patient. Sometimes it appears disrespectful and the patient disengages.
- -Some psychiatrists exhibit a need to be in control of the treatment plan. Their patience wears thin when a patient insists on having a voice through action or word whether it be positive or negative. This is common in patients with mood and personality challenges.

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