

ISPN Joyce Fitzpatrick Psychiatric Research Grant 2019

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Thank you to the ISPN Foundation for awarding me the Joyce Fitzpatrick Psychiatric Research Grant! This grant has served as a catalyst for my research aimed to improve the health care experiences of pregnant and postpartum with substance use disorders (SUDs).

Pregnant and postpartum women with SUDs face many challenges to healthy maternal-child outcomes. Many pregnant and postpartum women report negative health care experiences and sometimes opt to avoid health care altogether. Maternity nurses have the opportunity to assist in the promotion of positive health care experiences and health outcomes when working with women with SUDs. However, both women with SUDs and maternity nurses have described difficulty in establishing a trusting relationship to the other which could negatively affect mental and physical maternal-child health outcomes.

Therefore, my study further explored the significant relationship between maternity nurses and pregnant and postpartum women with SUDs by identifying facilitators and barriers to a trusting relationship. I received the ISPN Foundation Joyce Fitzpatrick Psychiatric Nursing Grant of \$3,000 in Spring of 2019. The grant has provided financial support for my qualitative study by funding a professional transcriptionist which allowed me to focus my time on becoming immersed in the data.

My study included interviews with 25 participants (15 maternity nurses and 10 women with SUDs). This study identified 6 nurse characteristics that help or hinder a relationship with

pregnant and postpartum women with SUDs and included: 1) rapport-building, 2) demeanor toward the women, 3) provision of care, 4) provision of information, 5) attitudes toward substance use, and 6) addiction expertise. This study also identified 5 women characteristics that improved or hampered a relationship with maternity nurses and included: 1) engagement with nurses, 2) demeanor toward nurses 3) acceptance of care 4) investment in recovery, and 5) bonding with infant. This study found that maternity nurses were able to develop a trusting relationship with pregnant and postpartum women when the nurses showed caring, provided competent care, and incorporated an understanding of addiction when providing care.

Implications of this study include developing interventions aimed at improving maternity nurses' interpersonal skills when working with this population, understanding of addiction, and providing professional role support for maternity nurses to reduce biases and improve the relationships between maternity nurses and pregnant and postpartum women with SUDs. The results of this study will serve as a foundation to my line of research which is aimed at improving the health care experiences of pregnant and postpartum women with SUDs.

The results of this study will be disseminated through publication and conference presentations. An abstract will be submitted for the next ISPN conference (2021). The ISPN Foundation Joyce Fitzpatrick Psychiatric Mental Health Research Grant has been very instrumental to me in completing my study. I am very appreciative of the support of the ISPN foundation!