

Advocacy as a Core Competency in Graduate Medical Education

Richard Ha, DO, Felicity Adams-Vanke MD, Anita Kablinger, MD, CPI

Carilion Clinic - Virginia Tech Carilion

Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship Program, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, Roanoke VA



PURPOSE

- Advocacy is the process of stakeholders making their voices heard on issues that affect their lives and the lives of others at the local, state, and national level.
- Advocacy also means helping policymakers and elected or appointed officials find specific solutions. Advocacy includes “lobbying,” which are activities that are in direct support of, or opposition to, a specific piece of introduced or proposed legislation.
- Carilion Clinic currently has one residency program that requires a rotation in Advocacy (Pediatrics).
- The ACGME requirements state that Pediatric residents should advocate for quality patient care and optimal patient care systems.
- The child psychiatry program encourages advocacy through didactics and participation in national advocacy day.
- A goal of this project is to develop an introductory curriculum in advocacy for Carilion Clinic housestaff that describes the value of advocacy and introduces local resources through which physicians can address advocacy needs of their patients.

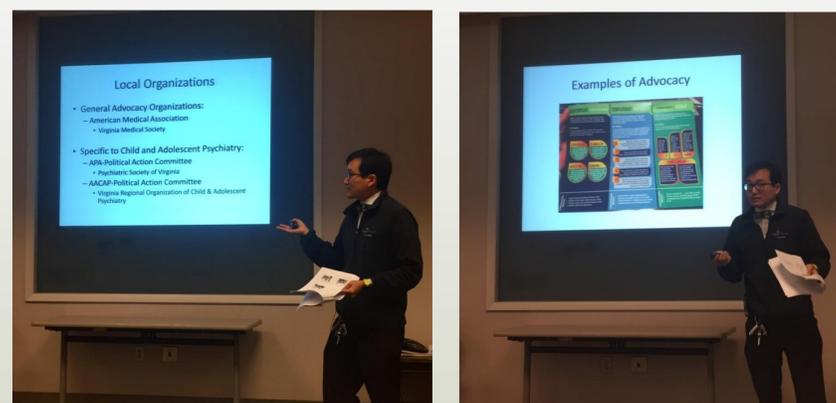
METHODS

- A literature review was conducted including review of Pubmed, Google and a search of the ACGME website for articles addressing “Advocacy”/”Community Involvement” and “Advocacy Requirements.”
- Advocacy materials and curricula from other programs were identified and reviewed including:
 1. The advocacy curriculum teaching materials from AAP
 2. Advocacy materials from Virginia Medical Society
 3. Advocacy materials from the AMA
- A brief introductory didactic presentation focused on advocacy for residents was created and presented to the child and adolescent psychiatry trainees, based on the materials reviewed. The presentation was intentionally created to be generalizable to other GME specialties.

RESULTS

Advocacy Knowledge Quiz Results		
Question	Pretest	Post Test
Knew Congressional District	23%	63%
Knew Federal Congressman	61%	88%
Knew State Congressman	38%	50%
Knew State Senators	54%	88%
Knew what PAC stood for	77%	100%

*Audience composed of Medical Students, Residents, Attendings, and Social Workers



- Materials were presented during a typical didactic period with minimal interruption in health care professional schedules.
- One medical student connected with local medical student organization discussed the idea of being involved with advocacy.

Advocacy Resources Presented

Virginia Medical Society
American Medical Association
Organization Representing Specialty (e.g. AACAP or APA for Psychiatry)
The Impact Center

DISCUSSION

- The majority of residents receive little to no training on advocacy yet it is becoming an integral part of community-based treatment. It is also part of the ACGME Milestones evaluation and addresses the ACGME Core competency of Systems-Based Practice. A few programs nationally have successfully implemented an advocacy curriculum. As yet, most Carilion programs do not have formal Advocacy programs.
- A simple slide show presentation can stimulate interest in Advocacy.
- An awareness on advocacy opportunities can help trainees connect with the surrounding local community.
- National Chapters have a vested interest in getting their members involved on a local level.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

- Increase the availability of Advocacy resources so that all GME programs may include teaching about advocacy.
- Have residents work in Advocacy based teams as has been modeled by some other programs.
- Connect trainees with local and national Advocacy organizations to promote effective healthcare in the region.

REFERENCES

- Basu G, Pels RJ, Stark RL, Jain P, Bor DH, McCormick D. (April, 2017). Training Internal Medicine Residents in Social Medicine and Research-Based Health Advocacy: A Novel, In-Depth Curriculum. *Academic Medicine*, 92 (4), 515-520.
- Crump C, Arniella G, Calman NS. (October, 2016). Enhancing Community Health By Improving Physician Participation. *J Community Med Health Educ*, 6 (5), 470.
- Earnest MA, Wong SL, Federico SG. (October, 2010). A Framework for Designing Training in Medical Advocacy. *Academic Medicine*, 85 (10), 1550.
- Griffiths EP. (June 2017). Effective Legislative Advocacy – Lessons from Successful Medical Trainee Campaigns. *N Engl J Med*, 376 (25), 2409-2411.
- Roberts LW, Louie AK, Guerrero APS, Balon R, Beresin EV, Brenner A, Coverdale J. (August, 2017). Premature Mortality Among People with Mental Illness: Advocacy in Academic Psychiatry. *Academic Psychiatry*, 41 (4), 441-446.