

LEADING IN CHILD HEALTH DELIVERY

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Outline

- Introduction
- leadership skills
- Interprofessional leadership
- Characteristics of an effective leadership
- Values of effective leading
- Where do we go from here
- Conclusion



Introduction

- Ineffective leadership has been the biggest barrier to making timely and sustained improvements in policy, education and practice.
- Leadership has been repeatedly highlighted, as a priority area by policy makers, regulators, educators and practitioners.



Definition

Margaret Wheatley defines a leader as:

“Anyone who sees an issue or opportunity and chooses to do something about it .”

(Wheatley, 2009 p144)

A **good leader leads** and inspires others to work together in pursuit of a common vision and goal of quality patient care.



Leadership skills

- As a leader, a care giver, and an educator, always speak with **wisdom and authority**.
- Excellent **oral** and **written** communication skills to ensure that staff understands expectations.
- **Resolve** conflicts towards a common goal.
- **Set the pace** for child care nurses to gain more respect and to be the best they can be for their patients.



Why interprofessional?

- Globally, nations are undertaking initiatives to improve health care delivery
- World Health Organization states that most countries are struggling to educate and train enough health professionals.
- Malawi and other countries in the region face with a high disease burden coupled with a shortage of health workers.
- Working together in teams is the way forward.



Requirements

- Familiarity with and **valuing each other's** and scope of practice.
- Shared **information** for decision-making
- Shared **vision** and goals.
- Being **honest** with each other.
- Mutual **trust, respect and valuing** each others' input.



Value of effective leading

- **Connects** with all professionals as a result, there is innovation and professional growth.
- Increases **access** to children's care
- Provides for **efficient** use of resources.
- Improves nursing education, advance nursing practice and **empowers** nurses to improve the quality of children's care in the countries.



CHALLENGES



Finance and Governance



Socio-Economic
Determinants of Health



Infrastructure and
Equipment



Human Resources
for Health



Supply Chain



Health Information
Systems



AFFECT SERVICE DELIVERY

Where do we go from here?...

- **Educate** and **empower** more nurses to be leaders of change in child nursing to create better outcomes for our children.
- **support** nurses as **essential actors** in the health workforce – e.g. included in health policy, protocols and standards formulation and supportive supervision
- **Strengthen** nursing profession to maximize their contribution to achieving SDGs and universal health coverage



Where do we go from here?..cont...

- Demonstrate and lead at all levels in the work area:
 - Be proactive and make strategic decisions
 - Nurse led ward rounds
 - Be a change agent and remain assertive
 - Results oriented monitor progress
 - Be a role model, lead by example



Conclusion

- Effective leadership in child health nursing has never been more needed and more supported than it is right now.
- Participants at this conference need to continue with their valuable contribution in ensuring quality child health care.



END

Thank you

