**Project the Outcomes**

 NURS505

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Implementation of policies is not to be taken lightly, no matter the industry, particularly, healthcare policies, which, more often or not, is to address a specific health related issue. There are often barriers at the beginning stages of attempting policy implementation. One of the biggest challenges is funding or financial backing, due to lack of clarity of the goal. Another is, what roles will be played and by whom, lastly, effective, and successful collaboration will be essential. A great deal of work goes into implementing successful health care policies, there is innovation, technical, management and partnership to consider. To eradicate food deserts in rural and urban areas, the following policy implementations have been presented. A proposal for local farmers to partner with local communities and bring their fresh produce into food deserts, at a minimum of two times per week, and sold at half price, another potential policy was to commit dollar store retailers building permits, only, if they agreed to sell fresh produce in the stores, the last policy was to get school nurses involved in the Healthy Corner Store Initiatives.

If the proposed policy for farmers to partner with local communities were passed, I would anticipate that the residents in the neighborhoods would have an opportunity to experience increased food security, which include an uptake in healthy foods in these underserved areas. There would be an opportunity for a boost in fresh vegetables and fruit consumption in their diets. These positive outcomes would be a welcome and past due solution, although, not the complete solution, but a start. I believe it would improve the problem, for residents that face challenges and barriers to fresh produce.

The anticipated outcomes after allowing dollar store retailers to build in food deserts, only if they commit to offering fresh produce is a winner. Partnerships seem to be key in this policy. Dollar General has made a huge impact in Louisiana. Baton Rouge’s HealthyBR aims to improve the health of its residents by way of collaborating and partnering with companies whose visions, align with theirs, in efforts to improve the lives of their residents. These successful collaborations could encourage other cities to get on board with the petition to only grant permits to build, with agreement to offer healthy options for residents of underserved communities. This could further open the door for partnerships with brand name companies, that support the same vision, with the probability of larger grocery chains considering a build in the communities. I believe the collaborations could open dialogue for remolding existing stores as well, with perhaps some assistance with funding. According to (Dollar General 2021), “Here in Baton Rouge, we are firm believers in the power of public partnerships,” said Baton Rouge Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome. “These collaborations allow our municipal government to work businesses and non-profits to address the needs of our residents. Our HealthyBR team is looking forward to working with Dollar General to advance the Geaux Get Healthy Initiative. Our community is thankful to have partners like Dollar General. Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, and the American Heart Association as we work to address food insecurity in East Baton Rouge Parish.”

Policy implementation for a school nurse to become more involved in the Healthy Corner Store Initiative is possible, however, a bit more challenging. Nurses promote health, among other roles. After school, children in food deserts often walk pass corner stores on which there are a plethora of unhealthy choices to grab and go. School nurses could role model healthy eating habits in several ways if it were incorporated into the curriculum. Health promotion, in this policy could easily be encourage by nurses. They could work with physical education teachers and coaches, to teach healthy eating choices. Awareness of eating fresh fruits and vegetables daily, healthy snacks and water would be a positive impact for the student body. As a result, when stopping by the corner stores in their neighborhoods, children would perhaps, take a second to choose a wise and healthy food choice. “Data on the Farm to School program suggest that implementation of the program within the school increases students’ knowledge and positive attitudes regarding eating fresh fruits and vegetables” (Muckian, et al, 2017, p11, as cited in Journal of Pediatric Nursing, 35 (2017) 10-15.

Policy implementation is a daunting task, the process can be long and arduous, however, the push for effective change is necessary. Successful policy implementation can happen with the right resources, cooperation, partnerships, and management of the project.

**References**

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