



## Advancing Research at ESH

As part of our Academic Practice Partnership between the UK College of Nursing, UK College of Social Work, UK HealthCare, and Eastern State Hospital, we strive to enhance patient health outcomes by promoting practice, research, and scholarship.

To achieve these aims, the BHWELL Work Learning Program offered support to Elizabeth Smith in completion of her Doctorate of Nurse Practice project.

## Elizabeth Smith

2022 DNP Graduate

## Committee

**Committee Chair** | Dr. Debra Hampton  
**Clinical Mentor** | Dr. Andrew Cooley  
**Committee Member** | Dr. Karen Butler

The Behavioral Health Wellness Environments for Living and Learning (BHWELL) works to promote behavioral health and wellness among individuals facing behavioral health challenges.

BH WELL is part of an Academic-Practice Partnership between the University of Kentucky College of Nursing, UK HealthCare, and Eastern State Hospital. We serve the partnership through practice, research, and scholarship. This partnership is a formalized relationship that developed based on our shared vision, goals, and knowledge; clear and ongoing communication and commitment; and mutual respect.




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## Abstract

### Evaluation of Dyad Effectiveness in a Psychiatric Healthcare Facility

**Background:** Inadequate communication can lead to poor quality of care and patient outcomes. Physician-nurse dyad partnerships have been shown to increase effective communication but there is a lack of data to show the impact these dyads have on dyad members' perceptions about patient safety, work engagement and quality patient outcome measures.

**Purpose:** This purpose of this project was to determine if a physician-nurse dyad structure in an inpatient psychiatric hospital would lead to improved participant perception about patient safety, work engagement, and patient quality outcomes.

**Methods:** A quasi-experimental pretest-posttest design was used. Participant perceptions related to patient safety, work engagement, and quality patient outcomes were obtained prior to implementation of the dyads and were compared to data and outcomes obtained one-year post implementation. Employee surveys were used to measure dyad participant perception of patient safety and work engagement. This survey included four employee patient safety-related items, in addition to the 17 item Utrecht Work Engagement Scale (UWES). Patient outcome quality measures for each unit, which included falls, use of restraints, and medication errors, were retrieved from the quality department in order to compare pre- and post-implementation outcomes.

**Results:** An increase was noted in participant perception scores related to patient safety and work engagement, although the difference was not significant. Patient quality outcomes improved on units where individual dyad pairs completed performance improvement initiatives. The small sample size of 11 participants could have contributed to the lack of statistical change.

**Conclusion:** The findings from this study suggest working in a dyad partnership increases work engagement scores and a focus on patient safety. Patient quality outcome results varied which may be contributed to the short duration of this study.