Lessons Learned in Conducting School Health Research in Massachusetts: A Massachusetts School Nurse Research Network (MASNRN) Project

Mary Jane O'Brien
*Massachusetts School Nurse Research Network and Boston Public Schools*

Marie DeSisto
*Massachusetts School Nurse Research Network and Waltham Public Schools*

C. Lynne McIntyre
*Massachusetts School Nurse Research Network and Dotwell*

*See next page for additional authors*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/chr_symposium](https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/chr_symposium)

Part of the [Education Commons](https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/education_commons), [Nursing Commons](https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/nursing_commons), and the [Public Health Commons](https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/public_health_commons)

O’Brien, Mary Jane; DeSisto, Marie; McIntyre, C. Lynne; O’Neill, Katherine; and Sheetz, Anne, "Lessons Learned in Conducting School Health Research in Massachusetts: A Massachusetts School Nurse Research Network (MASNRN) Project" (2012). *Community Engagement and Research Symposia*. 1.

[https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/chr_symposium/2012/posters/1](https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/chr_symposium/2012/posters/1)

This material is brought to you by eScholarship@UMMS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Community Engagement and Research Symposia by an authorized administrator of eScholarship@UMMS. For more information, please contact Lisa.Palmer@umassmed.edu.
Lessons Learned in Conducting School Health Research in Massachusetts: A Massachusetts School Nurse Research Network (MASNRN) Project

Mary Jane O’Brien, PhD (c), RN
Lynne McIntyre, RN, PhD
Anne Sheetz, RN, MPH

Marie DeSisto, RN, BSN, MSN
Katherine O’Neill, RN, MS, FNASN
MASNRN Board & Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lessons for the researcher when collaborating with a school nurse (SN):</th>
<th>Lessons for the researcher when collaborating with a school administrator:</th>
<th>Lessons for the researcher when conducting school-based research:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Follow-up on the SN’s interest in participating in research.</td>
<td>1. Encourage the school administrator’s participation by: presenting a proposal for study that benefits students’ health and academic performance; providing a consent form that is concise and transparent; and acknowledging the professionalism of the SN.</td>
<td>1. Encourage and guide the SN’s formulation of research inquiries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Recognize that a basic review of research may be required by the SN including: the research process, research question, databases and indexes, research design and methods, consent and assent, confidentiality, conflict of interest, and reliability of results.</td>
<td>2. Discuss the complexity of the IRB process in initial discussions including: multiple IRBs and permissions may be needed; special consent issues involving parents and assent of children; and human subjects training required for those nurses participating in research.</td>
<td>2. Assess the SN’s research capability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Use a transparent, collaborative agreement to ensure that the SN commits to participation in all aspects of the study, including timely return of the research results and debriefing.</td>
<td>3. Acknowledge the importance of the school administrator’s cooperation.</td>
<td>3. Provide to the SN participants:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Consider use of continuing education and other incentives to compensate SNs.</td>
<td>4. Provide the findings to the administrator.</td>
<td>• A basic review of the research design</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lessons for the researcher when conducting school-based research:

1. Encourage and guide the SN’s formulation of research inquiries.
2. Assess the SN’s research capability.
3. Provide to the SN participants:
   - A basic review of the research design
   - Clear instructions prior to beginning a research study
   - Packets of all study materials with enough copies & in appropriate languages
   - Contact information of principal investigators
   - Timeline
   - Incentives
   - Enthusiasm for school-based research.
4. Conduct debriefing groups.
5. Recognize and acknowledge SN participants’ input and the value of their expertise in all publications and presentations related to the study.
6. Disseminate the findings through publication and presentations at professional conferences.