Selam,

Communities refer to a group of individuals that share a similar background and enjoy the same culture, language, resources, among others. Communities can be defined according to political and geographical lines such as boundaries, localities, or via resources and interests such as those who have HIV/AIDs, the gay community, among others. Community healthcare, therefore, refers to the provision of healthcare not to individuals but the wider community via out-of-hospital care provided to individuals, families, and groups such as the homeless or those suffering from certain diseases.

In order for community clients to receive proper care, partnerships within the healthcare facilities, the government, and other not-for-profit organizations need to be present. Alexandria, Virginia, is an excellent example of the various aspects and partnerships aimed at improving community care. Community client includes groups such as neighborhoods, students, uninsured children and adults, families among others. Most of these groups access healthcare from the various free clinics and neighborhood health centers that offer healthcare to vulnerable groups such as uninsured children and adults. These groups and health issues facing Alexandrians were well covered in the Community Health Improvement Plan 2025 (CHIP), which was a collaboration between Alexandria Health Department, community members, and the Partnership for a Healthier Alexandra (Alexandra Community Health Assessment, 2021). CHIP was an action plan that followed the 2019 community health assessment in Alexandria, where community members, organizations, and institutions all participated in identifying issues then come up with strategies, progress measures, tactics, and timelines.

There are several free and income-based clinics in Alexandria. Neighborhood Health which is a not-for-profit federally qualified health center, uses a sliding scale methodology to determine health costs which means that income determines how much an individual will pay (Neighborhood Health, 2021). It targets healthcare to children, pregnant women, routine checkups, treatment, primary care for acute and chronic diseases, mental health, and substance abuse services. Its healthcare centers are funded by the federal government and work with other local agencies to receive referrals and avoid cost duplication for services. INOVA, which has a Community Services Division called Partnership for Healthier Communities that helps match uninsured adults and children to affordable sources of quality healthcare, recently opened two clinics in Alexandria's West End region (Alexandria Living Magazine, 2021). All these health centers rely on programs such as Medicaid, CHIP, and donations to offer free or low-cost medical coverage programs to individuals.

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Valerie

In my opinion, community is best described as a social group of people who come from different cultural backgrounds but may share the same geographical location. Even though individuals in the community may have different ethnic and cultural backgrounds, the environment that we are in causes us to share resources and share some similarities on how we pursue our daily living. As nurses that work in the community, I believe it is our duty to assess the living conditions of those that resides in the areas we are helping in. Assessing access to resource within the community is also an important factor. As mentioned by (Stanhope, 2020) “Changes in individual health will ultimately affect the health of the community.” In other words, community client can be best described as when one individual is experiencing health concerns, the community nurse should further assess the rest of the community to determine health risks that may be affecting the community. Partnership for health best describes how population-centered care is delivered by health providers. In the hospital setting, nurses perform patient-centered care based on the individuals needs, whereas in the community the nurses provide care to the population in need.  When communities can work together and grow together this indicates community cohesion. A negative aspect that can affect cohesion is when conflict arises throughout the community.  Due to the fact that conflict can be overwhelming, many people will try to avoid it, and this can cause them to not participate in managing the issues that have arrived in the community.  Whereas other individuals are willing to put up a fight to make sure there is an outcome where members in the community can benefit from. Group effectiveness should be promoted to help members work together to best promote successful outcomes.

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