Research Report January 2025 Dominique Tobbell, PhD

My current research project, Nursing for Community Health: Nurse-Led Clinics in Historical Perspective, 1960-2010, is the first in-depth historical analysis of nurse-led clinics and their role in providing care to underserved communities. It uses a series of case studies of community-based nurse-led clinics that span the 1960s through the early 2000s to 1) analyze how the nursing model of care shaped the types of health services that nurses provided in these clinics; 2) assess the impact of the clinics on the communities they served; and 3) analyze how evolving health policies and political debates over health care financing, reimbursement, and scope of practice legislation constrained nurses' ability to practice independently and influenced the sustainability, governance, and community impact of the nurse-led clinics.

My case studies include the Mom and Tots Neighborhood Center, which was a community-based maternal and child health center established by a public health nurse in a pre-dominantly Black and low-income neighborhood in Detroit that operated from 1965-1980, and the nurse-managed primary care service established by the Leinhard School of Nursing at Pace University in 1977. The Pace nurse-led clinic initially began as a University Health Center that provided primary care to the Pace community, but which eventually expanded in the 1990s and early 2000s to include at Outreach Health Center that provided primary care to unhoused families and single men in Yonkers, NY, and community health services for low-income and elderly individuals in Westchester County.

With the support of an AAHN H21 Grant, I was able to undertake essential archival research related to these two case studies. I spent four days in July 2024 at the Walter Reuther Archives at Wayne State University in Detroit analyzing primary sources that provided insights into Detroit urban health politics and community activism during the 1960s and 1970s, critical context for understanding the history of the Mom and Tots Neighborhood Center. This involved researching the records of Detroit mayors during the 1960s and 1970s, Jerome Cavanaugh and Coleman Young; records related to the city's anti-poverty program, Total Action Poverty, which helped fund the Mom and Tots Neighborhood Center; the records of New Detroit Committee, which was established by the Cavanaugh administration in the wake of the 1967 uprisings and provided oversight of and funding for the city's reform efforts; and the papers of the United Community Services, which provided funding to the Mom and Tots Center, and the NAACP, which was involved in many civil rights activities during the 1960s and 1970s. While in Detroit, I was also able to visit the site of the Mom and Tots Clinic. The neighborhood remains underserved, characterized by numerous vacant lots and run-down buildings. The grant also underwrote a five-day research visit to the Lienhard School of Nursing Archives at Pace University in Pleasantville, NY, in December 2024. While at Pace, I examined the institutional records, including number grant reports, related to the Lienhard School of Nursing's NMHCs. I also conducted an oral history interview with Dr. Jamesetta Newland, who directed Pace's NMHC from 1993 to 2007. The archival research also provided the foundation for a series of oral history with several other nurse practitioners involved in directing or staffing the clinics from the 1980s through the early 2000s. I have published one article ("The Role of

Communities in Nurse-Led Clinics, 1965-2000: Lessons from History." *Policy, Politics, & Nursing Practice* (2025) 26(1): 6-15. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1177/15271544241289416">https://doi.org/10.1177/15271544241289416</a>) and have another forthcoming based on my research on the Mom and Tots Neighborhood Center, both of which acknowledge the vital funding I received from the AAHN H21 Grant. I am very grateful for the support provided by the AAHN!