

# Activating Healthcare Advocates: A Collaboration between NPA and the IHI Open School



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## BACKGROUND

Traditional medical training has occurred in silos which

- Prevents interdisciplinary communication
- Limits collaboration

There are two key organizations with similar interests of building knowledge and activating health professionals to improve the healthcare system

- *National Physician's Alliance (NPA)* promotes physician engagement to achieve high quality, affordable healthcare for all
- *Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Open School for Health Professions* encourages trainees to learn and work across disciplines

## AIM

To facilitate opportunities for interdisciplinary learning and aligning the missions of the two organizations, we organized an educational program for current and future healthcare professionals focused on the relationship between quality and cost using the Top 5 lists to promote good stewardship in clinical practice, initially developed by the NPA, as a tool to initiate collaboration.

For more information about the Institute for Healthcare Improvement Open School visit [www.ihio.org/OpenSchool](http://www.ihio.org/OpenSchool) or the National Physicians Alliance visit <http://npalliance.org/>.

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## CONCEPT

A one and a half hour symposium held on October 17, 2012 at Thomas Jefferson University focused on good stewardship among health care professionals. Fifteen participants from local Universities (Thomas Jefferson University, Temple University, Drexel University) and health care organizations (Hahnemann University Hospital, Cooper Health, and St. Christopher's) representing medicine, nursing and public health joined together to learn how to be effective healthcare advocates. This symposium was the product of collaboration between local IHI Open School Chapters and the NPA members intended to create collaborative opportunities to initiate improvements as healthcare advocates.

## METHODS

A pre-assessment was administered prior to the session to gauge the participant's level of understanding and engagement in healthcare advocacy. A post-assessment was completed at the conclusion of the session and focused, similarly, on understanding and intent to engage in healthcare advocacy as a result of participating in the symposium.

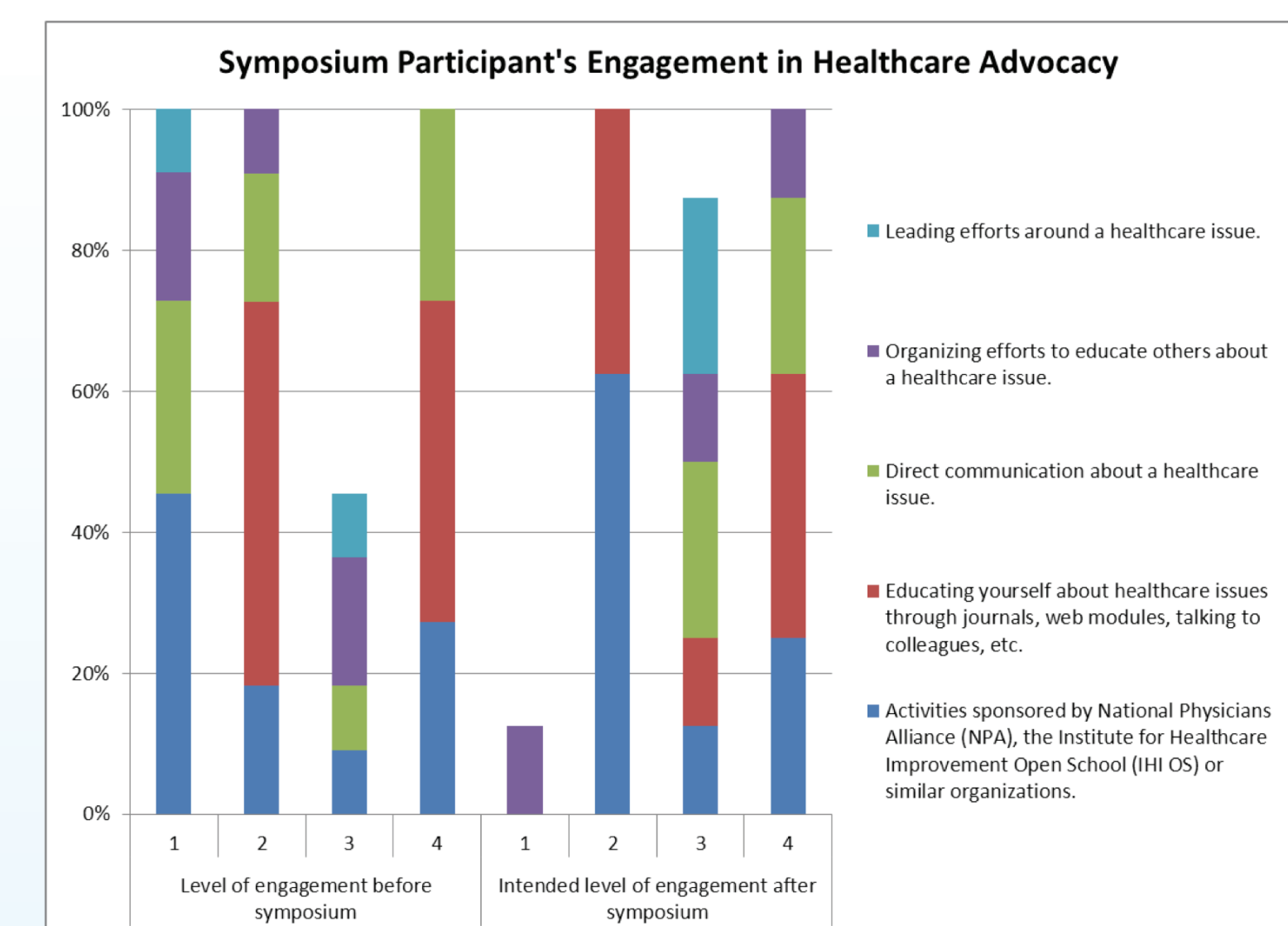
## RESULTS

When asked what healthcare advocacy means, the symposium participants cited access, quality, safety and cost as the primary elements as well as providing healthcare responsibly.

- 66.7% of the participants considered themselves healthcare advocates before the symposium and 100% felt they had an understanding of how to become an advocate after participating.
- 75% indicated interest in becoming a healthcare advocate

## RESULTS

The level of participant engagement in healthcare advocacy varied, but the likelihood of them engaging more actively increased after participating in the symposium.



Scale: 1) not engaged, but aware (least engaged); 2) engaged on occasion; 3) regularly engaged; 4) contributing (most engaged)

Most said they would likely join a group to organize advocacy activities or share information with colleagues/family/friends.

## CONCLUSION

The symposium effectively brought together an interdisciplinary group of professionals to learn about good stewardship and healthcare advocacy. The participants were much more likely to organize and lead healthcare advocacy initiatives after participating in the symposium. This collaboration between NPA and the IHI Open School is one of many potential examples of coalition building and empowerment that could lead to healthcare improvements.