

Background

- Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) residents and staff were disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- As of 01/01/21, California began requiring at least 1 full-time Infection Preventionist (IP) for every licensed SNF (Assembly Bill 2644).

LACDPH identified:

- Low level of infection prevention and control (IPC) knowledge and high level of turnover among SNF IPs.
- Challenges with feelings of isolation in the new IP role without community support, little awareness of the IP's importance in overall IPC and resident safety beyond COVID-19.

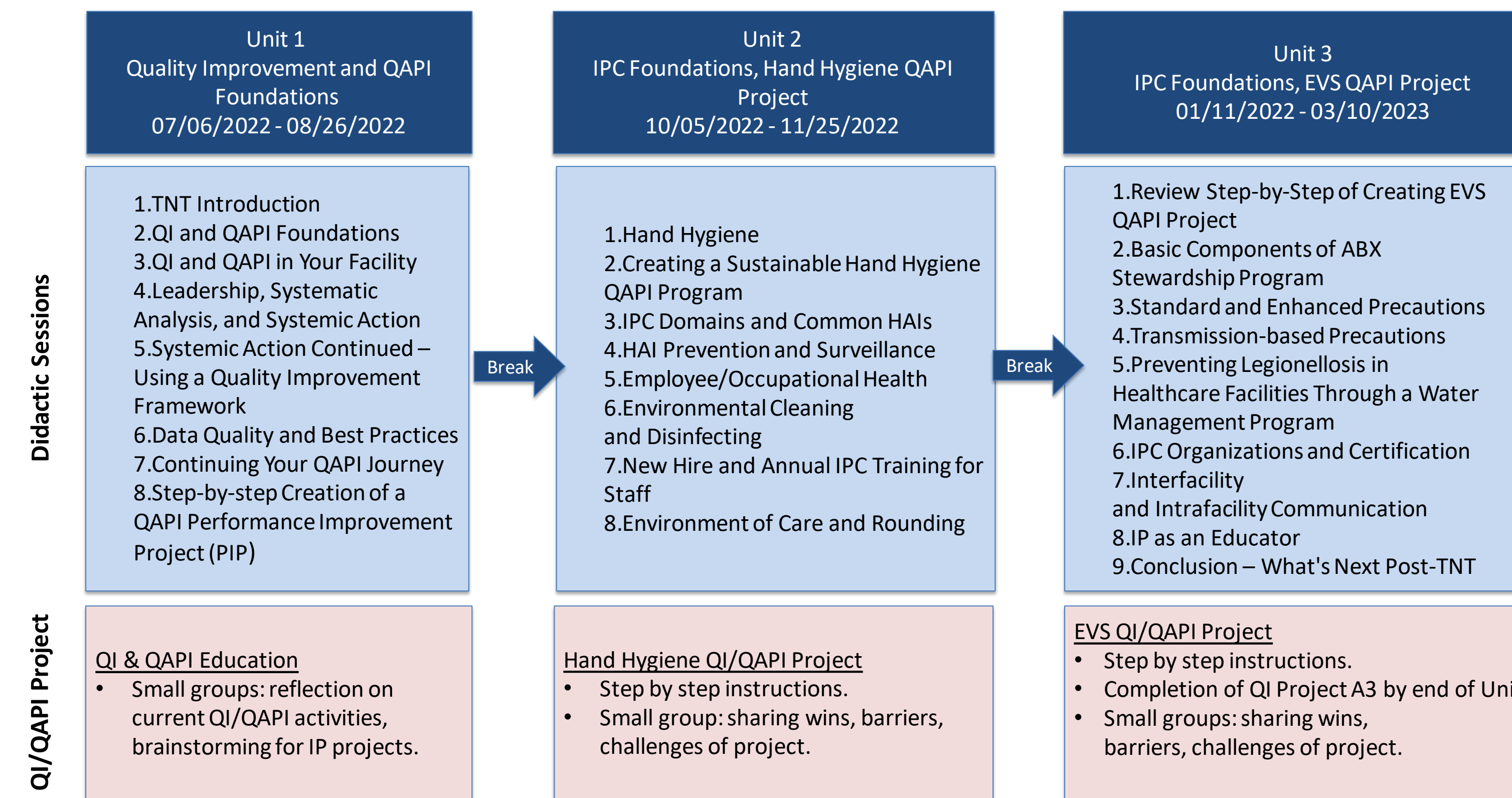
Aims

- Core IPC education for SNF IPs and staff.
- Improve standing and visibility of the IP and their role within SNFs.
- Foster a community of IPs to build support and facilitate learning among IPs of different SNFs.
- Empower SNF staff to initiate and maintain quality improvement (QI) and quality assurance/performance improvement (QAPI) projects related to IPC.
- Standardize IPC practices in SNFs across the county.
- Promote a culture of safety, accountability, and transparency.
- Ultimately, the goal is to improve safety and care for SNF residents, staff, and visitors.



Methods

- TNT Program took place between June 2022 - March 2023.
- The Program consisted of weekly didactic presentations, monthly small group sessions, and weekly office (half) hours.
- SNF Administrators signed Commitment Forms and designated up to 4 participants, including at least one IP.
- At least one of participant per facility was required to attend a minimum number of sessions.



Program Outcomes

- Over 9 months, the TNT program delivered 26 didactic presentations, 49 small group sessions, and 23 office hours.
- A total of 865 individuals across 270 SNFs in LAC and Pasadena enrolled in the program.
- Of these enrolled SNFs, 223 (83%) successfully completed the program requirements and were offered a financial support of up to \$16,000.
- Facilities also received goodie bags with Glo Germ™ kits, binders, pens, hand sanitizers, etc.
- By the end of the Program, 6,555 CEUs and 1,532 certificates of completion had been issued for attending the Didactic presentations.

Major Findings

- **Improved understanding of core IPC concepts:** At the end of TNT, 66% of survey respondents rated their general IPC knowledge to be above average compared with 53% prior to starting TNT.
- **Greater appreciation of the IP's broader role beyond COVID-19:** Out of all survey respondents, (IPs, DSDs, DONs, NHAs), 95% agreed that their understanding of the SNF IP's role beyond COVID-19 improved.
- **Established a community of support among SNF IPs:** Overall, among IP survey respondents, 96% felt supported as an IP through the TNT Program. Specifically, 90% agreed that the small groups provided opportunities to connect with colleagues in other facilities.
- **Promoted professional growth among SNF IPs:** TNT's focus on professional development sparked interest in joining and engaging with professional IP organizations. Among SNF IP survey respondents, 86% reported interest in being in a professional IP organization, and 98% said they plan to seek continuing education in infection prevention and/or quality improvement going forward.
- **Increased confidence in quality improvement:** Significantly more survey respondents reported above average confidence in quality improvement after the completion of TNT (70%) than at the beginning of TNT (47%).

Recommended Best Practices

- Use expert-vetted resources for continued education.
- Normalize IPC as everyone's responsibility.
- Advocate for and invest in IPs.
- Create systems to support and mentor IPs.
- Apply a quality improvement framework to create sustainable change in IPC.
- Promote a culture of safety and transparency in SNFs.

Contact Information

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