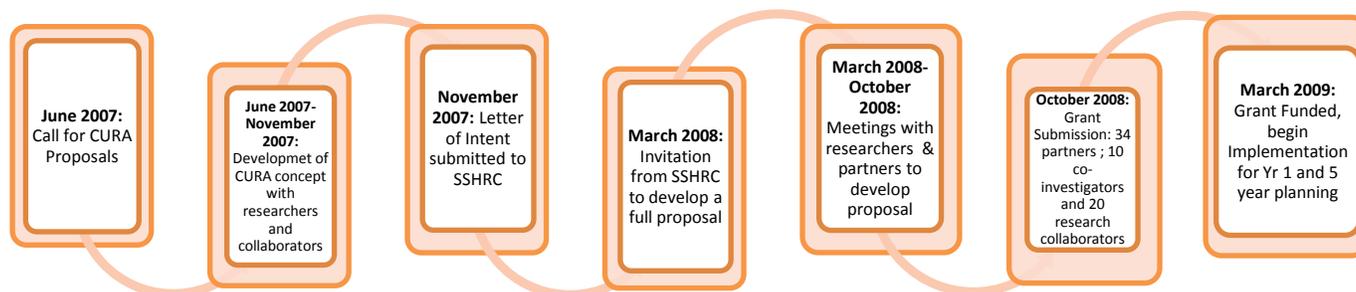


Brief Overview of Project

Improving Quality of Life for People Dying in Long Term Care Homes is a five year comparative case study research involving four long-term care (LTC) homes in Ontario. The homes are: Bethammi Nursing Home and Hogarth Riverview Manor located in Thunder Bay, and Allandale Village in Milton and Creek Way Village in Burlington. The research, funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council, is being done in partnership with St. Joseph's Care Group in Thunder Bay, the Municipalities of Halton and Niagara. The main aim of the research is to create a community-university research alliance that will improve the quality of life of people dying in LTC homes through developing palliative care programs using a process of capacity development. The methodology is participatory action research (PAR), which has two unique features. *Participatory* means that those people and organizations who will benefit from the research also fully participate in it. *Action* means that the goal of the research is to make social change. Together, researchers, partners and long term care home staff will assess needs, implement interventions and evaluate the results. The 30 community partners and 30 researchers who comprise the Quality Palliative Care in LTC (QPC-LTC) Alliance will actively contribute their expertise to the project. With this type of research, we are "learning by doing". The research process and all findings will be documented, and with this information a "toolkit" will be formed which can be used by other LTC homes to implement their own palliative care programs. Thus, there will be a direct benefit of this research to residents, families and LTC homes nationally. The research will also add to existing theory on organizational capacity development in a LTC home.

QPC-LTC Alliance: Development Timeline (June 2007-March 2009)



Summary of Community Partners' Teleconference, June 25, 2009

The community partners were introduced and thanked for their commitment which was integral to the successful award of the SSHRC Community-University Research Alliance (CURA) grant to Dr. Mary Lou Kelley. The process of obtaining the grant took almost two years and is outlined in the figure above. The QPC-LTC Alliance currently consists of more than 30 partners that have offered their support in many areas of service provision and knowledge translation/dissemination, contributing greatly to the success of this project. Other partners that would like to be involved in the Alliance are welcomed as this project is meant to be inclusive.

A brief overview of the research project was presented and work done to date was summarized. We have received human subject research ethics approval from Lakehead University, and are now awaiting approval from St. Joseph's Care Group, and McMaster University. Once the ethics approvals have all been obtained, data collection can begin. Year one focuses on conducting environmental scans in all four homes to fully understand the current perspectives and practices of providing end of life care in the four long term care home study sites. Interviews, focus groups and surveys will be used to gather information from residents, families, personal support workers, nurses, managers and other staff.

A decision was made that a teleconference between the community partners and the researchers will take place approximately three times per year, or when something of relevance needs to be discussed. An agenda will be sent out prior to the meeting. It is likely that the next teleconference meeting will take place in the late fall to share the information gathered from the data collection. In the mean time, some of the community partners may be asked to participate in an interview/survey to contribute to the base line data on palliative care in LTC homes.

Questions?

Please forward questions or comments to Dr. Mary Lou Kelley, Principal Investigator (mlkelley@lakeheadu.ca). Dr. Sharon Kaasalainen, Co-Investigator, or to Sonja Habjan, CURA Project Coordinator (shabjan@lakeheadu.ca)