

Community Partnerships



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Why form community partnerships?

- Enhance skill set for staff
- Additional expertise / offering more services
- Support in building palliative care programs
- Provide a palliative care focus at an organizational level
- Mentor LTC homes on tools and best practices

Possible Community Partnerships

- **Hospice Units**
- **Pain and Symptom Management Consultants**
- Hospice Volunteers
- Alzheimer's Societies
- Nurse led outreach programs
- Multicultural and Multifaith groups
- Research and Education Centres
- Churches
- Music Programs
- High schools/university/college
- 55 plus centers
- Local Counseling Centres
- Medical Community

Example #1: Hospice Visits

- Goal: Front line staff will learn how palliative care is delivered in hospice setting and what tools or information could benefit them in their own practice in LTC homes
- Front line staff visit local hospices
- Community partnerships built with Carpenter Hospice (Southern Ontario) and St. Joesph's Care Group Hospice (Northern Ontario)

Hospice Visits provides...

- Experiential learning opportunity
- Positive role modeling of best practices in providing palliative care
- Empowering and validating front line staff

Activities during Hospice Visits...

- Shadowing front line staff
- Meet with staff to understand their role within the team
- Participate in interdisciplinary team meetings or care rounds
- Look over resources or tools available at the hospice unit

What we learned...

- *“This experience has given me a new hunger for education and tools to help provide the most comfortable death for residents and their family members. This opportunity has increased our knowledge base regarding palliative care”*
- *“I would like to see more people come, I really do, I think it’s a great experience especially if you are new and have never experienced a death or providing end-of-life care.”*

Example #2: Palliative Pain & Symptom Management Consultant

- Local Pain and Symptom Management Consultant are Marg Poling and Mickey Turner
- They provide:
 - Pain and Symptom Management Rounds
 - Staff Education and Consultation
 - Mentorship around Communication with Families

Pain and Symptom Management Rounds

- Offers consultation to service regarding care, e.g., assessment and management of pain and other symptoms
- Offers case to case learning

Staff Education and Consultation

- Assists LTC homes in the use of assessment tools and best practice guidelines
- Offers consultation to service regarding care, e.g., assessment and management of pain and other symptoms
- Provides case-based education and mentoring for service providers
- Helps build capacity amongst front line service providers in the delivery of palliative care
- Links providers with specialized hospice palliative care resources

Mentorship around Communication with Families

- Mentor staff on how to communicate information to residents and families at the end-of-life
- Mentor staff on how to navigate and work with family dynamics

Palliative Approach vs. End-of-life Care

- Goals of Education:
 - Focus on the difference between palliative care and end-of-life care in a long term care context.
 - Highlight that people are not palliative, but care can be palliative
 - Explain how restorative care and palliative care can be complimentary and contribute to quality resident-centred care.

Palliative Approach vs. End-of-life Care (Continued)

- Goals continued:
 - Offer suggestions on how to identify if a resident could benefit from palliative care.
 - Describe the current stigma around palliative care and offer suggestions on how staff may overcome this when talking to residents and family members .
 - Allow long term care staff to think critically about the policies and procedures in their home and how they effect resident centred and palliative care.

What we learned...

- *“Having access to Palliative Pain and Symptom Management Consultants has enhanced communication between staff and has allowed us to build a knowledge base and heighten the awareness on palliative care.”*

Key Message

“Overall, the research and community partnerships have helped to bring change in practices to enhance quality of life for palliative residents and has built helped us to build palliative and end-of-life care into the foundation of our practice.”

Further Information

Visit our website

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Special Thanks to...



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