Providing Value and Worth to a Vulnerable Community

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Value and Worth

• Introduction of Self
• Who do we have in the audience?
  – Backgrounds

Value and Worth

• Let’s Chat!
• Discussion
• Questions
• Conversation
• A time of learning from one another
• Brainstorm
• Ideas
Value and Worth

• Learning Outcomes/Where are we going?
  – Understand the Barriers of Providing Advance Care Planning to the homeless population
  – Learn how to overcome these barriers through building relationships
  – Learn how to partner with local homeless communities and ministries
  – Learn how to provide education to the local homeless communities and ministries

Value and Worth

• Background of Homeless and Lower income populations
• What have been your experiences?

Value and Worth

• Greenville, SC
  – “South Carolina has about 5,000 homeless residents, according to the 2016 Point-in-Time Count. Results of this year’s survey have yet to be released.” (July 2017)
  – “According to last year’s count, the Upstate region had the highest number of homeless people in South Carolina — 1,829 or 36 percent of the state total. That figure represents a 7 percent decline from 2015. The count found that Greenville County had 591 homeless people, more than any other county in South Carolina.”

  • Independent Mail, Kirk Brown, July 2017
Value and Worth

• Since we are faced with this number of people, what were we seeing?

• Background of Palliative Care Team
  – How we function...
  – Problems we ran into

• Moral Distress of team members and RN's

Value and Worth

• Patient Case Example
  – Patient brought in by a friend
  – Not able to find anyone for days
  – Life Support
  – Found a brother, but didn’t want to help
  – DSS involvement
  – Son’s Employer, over the phone

Value and Worth

• Intervention
  – Partnership
  – Relationship
  – Education

• Can this be done?
Value and Worth

- “Power over what happens to a homeless person’s body at the end of life is significant for the individual who experienced so little power over much of his or her life.”
- “Researchers have found that homeless people are interested in having advance directives on record, and appreciate the change to talk about these issues with willing listeners.”

Preferences for End-of-Life Care: A Physician and Homeless Patient Comparison, American Medical Association Journal of Ethics.

Innovation and Excellence in Advanced Illness at End of Life

So what did we do?

Triune Mercy Center, Greenville, SC

Education...Initial Thoughts

Community Wednesdays at the Center
  - Health Screens
  - Lawyers
  - Food Pantry
  - SW
  - Computer Help
  - Advance Directives
Value and Worth

- Community Wednesdays
  - What did we see?
  - Hear?
  - How were we set up?
  - What did we do after Wednesdays?

Value and Worth

- Sustainable?
  - Pros and Cons
    - “Mistrust the healthcare system due to past negative experiences.”
    - “competing priorities.”
    - “Lack of Housing.”
      - Advance Care Planning for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness: A Quarterly Research Review of the National HCH Council

Value and Worth

- Moving from Pilot to Program!
- Questions
- Thoughts
- Other Ideas?
Value and Worth

- Resources


2) Journal of Palliative Medicine: Chronically homeless persons’ participation in an advance directive intervention: A cohort study
   - Alexander K Leung1, Dhruv Nayyar1, Manisha Sachdeva,
   - John Song2 and Stephen W Hwang1

3) American Medical Association Journal of Ethics
   January 2009, Volume 11, Number 1: 38-42
   - Preferences for End-of-Life Care: A Physician and Homeless Patient Comparison
   - Carolyn Bramante and John Song, MD, MPH, MAT
