THE NEXT FRONTIER: A NURSING HOME PILOT IN OKLAHOMA

Family Councils can support, inform, and empower family and friends as active members in the care of their loved ones. Councils can collectively identify and discuss concerns, seek positive resolutions, communicate regularly with administration, and support the facility in quality of care and quality of life enhancements.

INTRODUCTION

The Ruth Knee Center for Strong Families, located within the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work at the University of Oklahoma, proposes a nursing home demonstration to develop, implement, evaluate, and form a dissemination and sustainability plan for Nursing Home Family Councils in Oklahoma.

OBJECTIVES OF THE DEMONSTRATION

- Research best practices in Council development
- Conduct a needs and strengths assessment with key stakeholders
- Raise awareness among the public on the importance of Family Councils
- Develop substantive procedures for Council formation
- Partner with 1-2 nursing homes to create a Council and provide technical assistance and support
- Devise and complete a multi-method evaluation plan
- Identify if Family Councils have a measurable positive impact on resident and family well-being in Oklahoma
- Develop a plan to replicate the demonstration

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

- Increased rate at which families feel supported, informed, and empowered in the care of their loved ones
- Increased understanding of resident rights among families, residents, and staff
- Integration of policies and practices responsive to residents and families
- Increased rate at which families receive information and support in disease progression, advance care planning, self-care for the care-giver, coping, and grief
- Increased staff morale and/or satisfaction
- Improved communication between families, residents, and staff
- Improved resident and family well-being

Supporting Federal and Oklahoma Legislation and Regulations

- Older Americans Act of 1965, Title VII, Subtitle A, Chapter 2, Ombudsman Programs (Re-authorized in 2016
- Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987, Nursing Home Reform, Title IV, Subtitle C, Medicare & Medicaid Programs
- Services are to focus on the mental, psychosocial, and physical well-being of residents
- Facilities must provide educational programs for staff and residents on regulations, procedures, and policies concerning quality of care
- Oklahoma Statute, Title 63, Article 19, Nursing Home Care Act, (as Amended in 2013)
- Establish a Residents and Family State Council composed of 15 members, serving at the pleasure of the State Commissioner of Health, to meet at least quarterly
- The Council has the power and duty to advise the State Dept. of Health concerning development and improvement of services, care, and treatment of residents and family members and recommendations to the Department

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Nursing Home Reform Committee of the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and the Network for Social Work Managers Policy Fellows Program, including members of our collaborative: Sam Mistrano (Mentor), Jennifer Echols, Lauren LaStrapes, and Brittany Younger

CONTACT INFORMATION

Alisa West Cahill, LSW-Admin
alisawestcahill@gmail.com

RANKING CRITERION 2014

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<th>Facilities w/ Deficiencies and Severe Deficiencies</th>
<th>Health Inspections Above Average</th>
<th>Verified Ombudsman Complaints</th>
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OF THE 311 NURSING HOMES HAVE 50-199 BEDS

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