



Palliative Care Initiative

LIFE UPenn

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LIFE Palliative Care History

- Until 2007 LIFE staff received no official training in end of life issues
- Family preparation for decline and death happened most often in The Circle of Care – the closed dementia unit
- No hospice referrals were made
- Although the nurse practitioners and collaborating physicians were supportive of a palliative care initiative, there was no formal direction

LIFE Palliative Care History

- Several new members of LIFE staff had strong hospice background and so helped begin the discussion about end of life training
- These and several other members of LIFE staff attended ELNEC in California in 2007

LIFE Palliative Care History

- Hospice interviews and visits – especially around communication patterns and care provided
- Discussion around which of LIFE's frail elders would be best served by a formal hospice plan of care
- Discussion around which of LIFE's frail elders would be best served by a palliative plan of care
- Staff education
 - Formal
 - Continued attendance at ELNEC
 - Staff week long series of "Facing Death with Dignity"
 - Informal

LIFE Palliative Care History

- Palliative Care Committee founded 2009. Committee members included staff from all disciplines.
- Palliative Care Committee Mission:
 - Allow members to have a “good death” based on member preferences
 - Create a comfortable environment for staff, members and families to explore and address end of life issues
 - Provide a supportive presence around end of life issues

LIFE Advance Directives

- Five Wishes chosen as the LIFE vehicle to discuss end of life choices
 - Presented to Council of Elders
 - Presented to LIFE member focus groups
 - Presented to LIFE members and their families
 - Palliative Care Nursing students met with members one on one to help prepare Five Wishes documents (ongoing)

LIFE Palliative Care Committee Activities 2010-2011

- All expert panel discussion “Culture, Conversations, and Caring”
- What does the end of life look like?
 - Part of Annual Staff In-service
- 9 session whole staff education series
- 2 primary care and social work education sessions on “Having the Difficult Conversation”
- Bulletin board to allow staff to “honor” the members who have died

LIFE Palliative Care Committee Activities 2010-2011

- Committee chair changed
- Formal review of palliative care literature commenced
- Role play as part of annual staff in-service
- Palliative care committee and its work a formal part of new staff orientation
- POLST now the formal DNR form for all members
 - Used in conjunction with Five Wishes
 - Compliance is an issue

LIFE Ongoing Efforts Toward Palliative Care

- Palliative Care Consult Team
 - Available to assist with family meetings
- Post-death tracking- Did we honor their wishes?
 - Survey to family
 - Follow AD, place, hospice involvement
- Continuing education for staff members
 - Formal
 - Informal
- Bereavement support for staff and members
- Utilize Outside Hospice
 - Appropriate in which members/settings?
 - Made agreements with select companies, share responsibility

LIFE – What's Possible With Hospice

- Similarities between PACE and Hospice
 - Interdisciplinary team
 - Services and products provided
- Differences between PACE and Hospice
 - Formal bereavement program
 - Volunteers
 - On-call visits for after hours emergencies
 - Inpatient unit
- Differences between PACE and other insurers

LIFE-What's Possible With Hospice

- Still in the works
- Potential for a different structure of hospice services and reimbursement
 - Choose services needed
 - Choose desired type of hospice
 - Create request for proposal

Questions?

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