Working With Older Adults Across The Continuum Of Care

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Objectives

• Understand the role of Social Work/Care coordination

• Understand the bio-psycho-social challenges in aging

• Identify the standards to assess the appropriate level of care and support
Objectives

• Describe an older adults complex needs residing in the community

• Explore community resources

• Identify ethical issues and dilemmas
• Social worker refers to an individual who completes a degree in social work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education.
Role of Social Worker

**Advocacy** - advocate for the needs, rights, and equitable access to resources

**Follows code of ethics** - enhance well-being, promote self determination, social justice - act on an individual and system level to access information, services and resources
Role of Social Worker

**Collaboration**- promoting interdisciplinary
And inter-organizational collaboration

**Cultural Competence**- practice in a manner that recognizes, affirms, and values the worth of individuals, families and communities.

(NASW 2010)
Ethics and Values

Social workers must comply with federal, state, local, tribal laws, regulations and policies.
Role of Social Worker

What do health literacy and cultural competence have in common?

(Lie, Carter, Braun, *Journal of Health Communications* 2012)
Bio-psycho-social challenges in aging

Assessment:

• Physical

• Cognitive

• Psycho-social

• Emotional
Bio-psycho-social challenges in aging

- Family structure and dynamics
- Strengths and protective factors
- Developmental themes
- Risk factors
Continuum of Care

Identifying barriers to continuum of care:

“Our Out of Sight, Out of Mind”: Housestaff Perceptions of Quality-Limiting Factors in Discharge Care at Teaching Hospitals

(Journal of Hospital Medicine, 2012)
Interventions

Social Work and Transitions of Care: Observations from an Intervention for Older Adults (Fabbe, Buffington, Shier, Golden)

(Journal of Gerontological Social Work(2011))
Planning for the Future

- Financial
- Advance directives
- Power of Attorney
- Options for Alternative living
- Long-term care Planning
Planning for the Future

• Early discussions about long-term care planning
• Understanding the resources in the community
• Involvement of the older adult in the long-term planning before services are needed
Cost of Care

- Medicare and Insurance coverage
- Medicare D
- Medicaid
- Long-term Care Insurance
- Prescription Drug Coverage
- Transportation
PA Department of Aging

• APPRISE is a free health insurance counseling program designed to help older Pennsylvanians with Medicare. The toll-free APPRISE Helpline is 1-800-783-7067, all services are free and confidential.
PA Department of Aging

Home and Community-Based Services Waiver for Individuals Aged 60 and Older

• To be eligible for the Aging Waiver, you must:
  • Be a resident of Pennsylvania
  • Be a U.S. citizen or a qualified Non-citizen
  • Have a Social Security Number
  • Be 60 years of age or older
  • Meet the level of care needs for a Skilled Nursing Facility
  • Meet the financial requirements as determined by your local **County Assistance Office**.
Long-term Care Insurance

Guide to Long-Term Care Insurance
Prescription Drug Coverage

• PACE, PACENET and PACE plus Medicare are Pennsylvania's prescription assistance programs for older adults, offering low-cost prescription medication to qualified residents, age 65 and older. For information, call 1-800-225-7223. (PA Department of Aging)
Transportation Resources

Free Transit and reduced fare:
• 4.5 million reduced fare rides
• 35.1 million free transit
  (administered by the PA Dept of Transportation)

(PA Department of Aging Report-Benefits and Rights 2012)
Resources

The Eldercare Locator, a public service of the Administration on Aging, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is a nationwide service that connects older Americans and their caregivers with information on senior services.
Exploring Community Resources

- Area Agency on Aging
- Home Health and Home Care Services
- Hospice Services
- Respite Services
Exploring Community Resources

• Transportation services
• Meals on Wheels
• Medical alert/response systems
• Adult Day Services
• Senior Centers
Exploring Community Resources

- Assisted Living Facilities
- Nursing Home/Health Care Centers
- Independent Living Facilities
- Senior Housing/Apartments
Ethical Dilemma

Definition:
1. Difficult problem which seems to have no satisfactory solution
2. A situation involving a choice between two equally unsatisfactory alternatives

*Ethical Issues of Elder Care (Hartford Foundation)*