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October 18–21 octobre 2022

Palais des Congrès de Montréal

Advocacy in Action: The role of the Social Worker – How to be part of the solution

Presented by: Sharon Baxter, Daniel Nowoselski
and Pablita Thomas

October 19th, 2022 Montreal



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CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARATION

- Sharon Baxter is a management consultant with both the Canadian Cancer Society and the BCHPCA
- Daniel Nowoselski is the Advocacy Manager, Hospice Palliative Care with the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS), where he leads the Don Green Palliative Care Advocacy Team funded by the Don & Shirley Green Family Foundation
- Pablita Thomas is the CEO of the British Columbia Hospice Palliative Care Association (BCHPCA)



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CanMEDS COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

- CanMEDS - Brief Overview.pdf – Useful links for this slide:
 - <https://www.mcgill.ca/medicinecpd/files/medicinecpd/canmed-roles-brief-overview.pdf>
 - Royal College - CanMEDS Framework:
<https://www.royalcollege.ca/rcsite/canmeds/canmeds-framework-e>
 - CFPC - CanMEDS Family Medicine Framework: <https://www.cfpc.ca/en/education-professional-development/educational-frameworks-and-reference-guides/canmeds-family-medicine>



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Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

1. Present and discuss case studies that illuminate advocacy in action at the individual, organizational/programmatic and group levels.
2. Working together develop an action plan for the next 12 months
3. As a larger group develop a broader call to action that you could action over time that will advance hospice palliative care social work practice.



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Outline of session

1. Introduction to session: 5 minutes
2. Case studies from Daniel, Pablita and Sharon:
(didactic) 30 minutes
3. Exercise in small groups: 20 minutes
4. Report back from small groups: 15 minutes
5. Summarizing next steps: 15 minutes
6. Call to action: 5 minutes

Introductions

- Everyone please give their name, where they work or volunteer and where they are from.
- Anyone from outside Canada? International delegates?
- Welcome everyone!

Definition of Advocacy

- According to the National Association of Social Workers,
“advocacy is **the act of arguing on behalf of a particular issue, idea or person.**” Social workers advocate on behalf of clients and communities in myriad ways, not all of which involve policy. Jan 27, 2021

What is advocacy in Social Work!

Every Action Counts: Why Advocacy Matters

- **Every action counts when it comes to advocacy. But how can I get involved and why is it important?**
- Advocacy increases awareness to initiate change. Every action counts because it gives those that are stigmatized a voice, educates, and reduces isolation and loneliness. By empowering patients, their families, caregivers and others to provide programs that increase public understanding and are advancing research, education, treatment and palliation. (amended from www.milesformigraine.org)

Advocating for policy change – C-220

- [An Act to amend the Canada Labour Code \(bereavement leave\)](#)
 - Private Member's Bill
 - Introduced by MP Matt Jeneroux (CPC – Edmonton-Riverbend)
 - Extended federal bereavement leave
- Worked to put issue on the political agenda
- Built cross-party consensus through process
- Brought additional stakeholders into conversation in coalitions
- Make it a political priority

Advocating for policy change – C-220



This bill received royal assent on June 29, 2021

Statutes of Canada 2021, c. 17

Debates of the Senate

Progress

Details

About

House of Commons



Bill reinstated from previous session

Completed on September 23, 2020



Second reading

Completed on February 17, 2021



Consideration in committee

Completed on February 26, 2021



Report stage

Completed on April 13, 2021



Third reading

Completed on May 12, 2021



Senate



First reading

Completed on May 25, 2021



Second reading

Completed on May 27, 2021



Consideration in committee

Completed on June 15, 2021



Third reading

Completed on June 21, 2021



BC's Hospice Society Snapshot

- BC Hospice Palliative Care Association (BCHPCA) represents over 90% of hospice societies in BC and 100% in the Yukon

MEMBERSHIP POPULATION DENSITY	
Metro (represents BC % of membership)	13.5%
Urban/Rural (represents BC % of membership)	15.4%
Rural/Small Town (represents BC % of membership)	38.5%
Remote (represents BC % of membership)	32.7%

Population Density - BC ONLY

- Metro = 190,001+
- Urban/Rural = 40,001-190,000
- Rural = 10,001-40,000
- Remote = 0-10,000

MEMBERSHIP REGION	Total	Hospice Houses	Community Hospices
Fraser (total hospices represented)	11	2	9
Interior (total hospices represented)	22	2	20
Northern (total hospices represented)	10	1	9
Vancouver Coastal (total hospices represented)	7	5	2
Vancouver Island (total hospices represented)	10	1	9
Yukon (total hospices represented)	2	1	1
TOTAL	62	12	50

BCHPCA's Government Visibility in 2022

- The BCHPCA collaborated with Regional Hospice Collaboratives, Rural Health Network, Canadian Cancer Society - BC, and Canadian Mental Health Association - BC on this year's budget committee submission; focusing on the need for funding support for bereavement care
- Budget committee recommended - Hospice and Palliative Care be publicly funded and provincial approaches were suggested.
- Endorsement by the municipal level government on making publicly funded

BCHPCA's Government Partnerships

Partnering with the
Ministry of Health and
Mental Health in looking
at delivering person-
centred care to those
underserved.

Working with rural
health networks to
support and accessibility
of services in rural and
remote regions.

Municipal leads have
committed to work with
BCHPCA and hospices
on community-level
services



Role of the social worker

- The National Association of Social Workers' Code of Ethics includes the standard that social workers "should engage in social and political action that seeks to ensure that all people have equal access to the resources, employment, services, (health care including hospice palliative care) and opportunities they require to meet their basic human needs and to develop fully." Social work policy advocacy is one of the means for upholding that standard.
- NASW is the American national body for Social Workers
- CASW is an active member of the Quality End of Life Care Coalition of Canada (QELCCC)

Exercise

1. Working in small groups identify a problem you want a solution for. It can be at any of the levels listed above or at more than one level.
2. Name three advocacy-based actions you could take over the next 12 months that would move the advocacy marker along.
3. Be prepared to share your activity and advocacy-based action with the other groups in order for us to collectively create a call to action.

Report back!

- What are the learnings from report backs
- Call to Action from session - summary

Some resources

- Effective Advocacy in Social Work by Boylan and Dalrymple
- CCS information at www.cancer.ca
- BCHPCA information at www.bchpca.org
- QELCCC information at www.chpca/projectsandadvocacy/QELCCC