

Abstract Submission- POSTER PRESENTATION

Title:

Facilitating Resident and Family Engagement in Alberta Continuing Care Facilities

Authors and credentials:

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Background:

The Covenant Health Network of Excellence in Seniors' Health and Wellness (the Network) is focused on enabling seniors to live to the fullness of their capacity in their communities. The Network works with seniors, their families, and experts to design and test innovative approaches to seniors' care and services. Resident and Family Councils (RFCs) are mechanisms for families to share their ideas and for operators to proactively share information and to develop plans in cooperation with families. Implementing effective RFCs in continuing care facilities will help ensure that families and residents are active partners in care. The Network will enhance and expand the value and utilization of RFCs in continuing care settings.

Purpose:

The goal of this project is to positively impact and support effective RFCs based on evidence of best practice adjusted to the Alberta environment.

Methods:

An Advisory and Planning Committee comprised of researchers, rural and urban Continuing Care Administrators, Patient Relations staff, Alberta Health Services (AHS), and family members and residents are working together to: (1) Conduct a literature review of best practices for RFCs, (2) Conduct an environmental scan of current RFC practices for in Alberta continuing care centres, and (3) Develop, implement, and evaluate a Toolkit for effective RFCs based on literature review, environmental scan, and expert input.

Anticipated Results:

Findings from the pilot projects for implementation of the RFAC toolkits will be broadly disseminated through the Network's communications mechanisms. Recommendations will be sent to AHS and Covenant Health for consideration and follow through.