


Social Work in Nursing Homes An Evolving Practice

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Social Work in Nursing Homes

'The social work program is directed towards providing services designed to identify and meet the social and emotional needs of each resident; to assist each resident and family to adjust to the effects of the illness or disability, treatment, and stay in the facility; and to assure adequate discharge planning and the appropriate use of community and social and health resources' (NASW, 1981:5)

The background of the slide features a pattern of overlapping autumn leaves in various shades of brown and orange, creating a textured, seasonal aesthetic.

Common Social and Emotional Issues Faced by Residents in Nursing Homes

6 Conceptualized Problems

- Barriers to admission to facility
- Problems of adjustment to facility
- Problems of adjustment to the diagnosis, prognosis and treatment plan

6 Conceptualized Problems

- Lack of information to make informed decisions and take control
- Lack of resources to meet needs
- Barriers to discharge from facility

Social Work Functions

- Conduct assessment on social and emotional needs
- Draw individualized care plan to address identified needs
- Empower resident and family to make informed decisions
- Mediation work

Social Work Functions

- Assess and link resident and family with required resources/ services within and outside the facility
- Provide counselling to residents and families
- Conduct group works

C.A.R.E. group

Aims to help residents
to ease the transition
from living at home to
long-term nursing care facility

What is C.A.R.E?

- Coping with nursing home admission
- Adjusting to your new role
- Role continuation at the nursing home
- Empowerment over your life

Guided Autobiography

- A program for older adults to review their lives using a series of topics
- Provides an environment to share their life stories in a mutually encouraging group, moderated by a facilitator

Intended Outcomes

- Increase sense of identity
- Develop greater self-esteem
- Enhance social and communication skills
- Promote individualized care in the Home
- Create an important legacy for others

Social Work Functions

- Supervision of social work students
- Conduct in-service training
- Formulate policy and develop program within facility
- Undertake research study and evaluate program effectiveness

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Some Challenges faced by Nursing Home Social Workers

Challenges

- Roles ambiguity and conflict
- Lack of standard of social work practice in nursing homes
- No regulation on the staff ratio on social worker in nursing homes
- 'Social workers' not trained in social work

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In conclusion