

Dementia Care Excellence Oversight Committee

Overseeing Implementing of San Francisco's Strategy for Excellence in Dementia Care

Wednesday, November 4, 2015 – Meeting Notes

Present: Brooke Hollister, Wendy Zachary, Cindy Kauffman, Andrea Korsunsky, Anne Hinton, Ruth Gay, Shireen McSpadden, Cathy Spensley, Elizabeth Edgerly, Madonna Valencia, Sherrie Matza, Stefanie Bonigut, Jennifer Shannon
DAAS: Melissa McGee

Overview and Next Steps –

Anne Hinton provided an overview of this committee. The committee meets quarterly with the goal of discussing and moving forward the recommendations and objectives of the “Strategy for Excellence in Dementia Care.” As a future objective, Anne suggests the group explore as an action item the use of MediCal as payment for people with Dementia.

Anne informed the group that she is retiring effective December 7. The new director will join this group. Anne feels it is important that someone from DAAS who knows players, understands the funding, and has the potential to bring people together, serve on this group. Melissa staffs the Long Term Care Coordinating Council, of which this is a workgroup. That position operates out of DAAS.

Update from Transportation workgroup –

Cathy Spensley described the peer escort program, which is embedded in Felton’s Senior Companion Program. That program already has the infrastructure to manage the peer escort program. Recruitment and training are happening right now. As part of training program, the escorts will ride on van to experience the ride as consumers. The program will get started during the second week of November. Adult day programs involved in the initial phase are SteppingStone, Catholic Charities, The ARC, and Jackie Chan Center. The companion will go to the host site during the last hour, and then ride home with consumers.

Update on Alzheimer’s Association Dementia Care Safety Net (“live alone”) grant –

Stefanie Bonigut explained the status of the grant activities. Stefanie will now be the lead for this project. They are currently working on part 1 of a 3-part grant. They are funded to work with people living alone, using a care management program.

Current work involves development of an algorithm that will be distributed to providers to assist in recognizing signs of dementia in clients. They want to work with 20 individuals over the next 2 years. The work will go into homes to do care planning. The worker will determine what the client is eligible for but not receiving as well as work to develop care circles. Care circles will be developed by looking at who is in their community and can assist and support the individual in his / her home.

They have met with 6 potential participants; for 3, a care plan has been developed; 1 was not appropriate; 2 need to see their physician for a full assessment for determination.

The project will also create a resource brochure that includes technology options. The goal is to encourage caregivers to use technology. Technology programs may include those that use sensors in the home for safety, movement sensors, GPS tracking, and on-line calendars. Anne explained that the SF Tech Council has started reviewing projects to fund. The areas of interest to the tech council are isolation, health, diversity, and social interaction.

Partners in this project are SF Village, openhouse, and Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly. Interested individuals can also self-refer.

Capacity for the program is 20 consumers for the 2 years. Stefanie Bonigut is staff for the project.

(Recruitment flyer is attached.)

Mobile Dementia Team / Hospital Transitions Project –

Just prior to this meeting, a conference call was held to discuss ideas and how to move this work forward. Andrea Korsunsky and Ruth Gay will chair the group.

Two ideas came out of the call.

1 - The first is to collect data to identify the problem. There is need for data to identify the problem. Data would include frequent users, as well as training and education. A determination of what is needed can be identified based on the data.

2 – The second is to look at opportunities to assist families and facilities to triage individuals with dementia who access emergency rooms. This may involve assessment prior to transport, triaging situations, and having education and training for families, providers, and residential care settings, and providing resource tools to families and caregivers.

There was a suggestion of some way to develop an age sensitive wing of an ER specific to seniors and people with disabilities that is focused on aging and related issues, similar to the two pediatric emergency rooms currently operating in SF.

An idea for a mobile team that can respond in the hospital ER to assist the staff with dementia was also suggested.

Other Business –

Ruth informed the group about “Dementia Friendly America,” which is a movement to identify factors that represent dementia friendly. Santa Clara County has signed on to this.

Dementia Friendly America - www.dfamerica.org

Santa Clara County - <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/opa/nr/Pages/County-of-Santa-Clara-Pledges-to-Support-Dementia-Friendly-America-Initiative.aspx>

The SCAN Foundation summit held last week in Sacramento. There was a presentation by Joanne Handy / Leading Age about insurance products that would help the middle income group. The group would like to invite Joanne to talk about that work to this group. (Melissa will contact her.)

Brooke informed the group about the GWEP funded by HRSA. The goal is to have one city, one strategy to enhance geriatric training of providers, CBO's, and caregivers. Current efforts right now are to develop and design training modules.

Next meeting – February 2016 TBD