



Posters Presentation

Power of Partnership - Nursing, Social Work and Volunteer in Community

Author: Lai S F^{1,2}, Lam Y M^{1,2}, Chan K F³

Institution: Community Nursing Service¹,
Princess Margaret Hospital²,
Hong Kong Family Welfare Society³

Introduction:

The Kwai Tsing Safe Community and Healthy City initiative started in 2000. The settings approach was adopted to promote safety and health in the community. In 2005, a Safe and Healthy Estate Project was launched in Cheung Ching Estate together with the Pilot of Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) to serve a population of 18,000 with poor, aged and under-privileged people.

Purpose of the Project:

To test the effectiveness of nursing and social work collaboration in local community.

To establish Family Ambassador Volunteer Team to support vulnerable families in the local community.

Method:

The FNP is a Nurse Specialist stationed in Cheung Ching Estate, helping individuals and families to cope with illness, chronic disability and in times of stress; giving advice on lifestyle and behavioral risk factors; to assist families with matters concerning health and illnesses. A social worker (SW) worked closely with FNP in the estate, she was responsible to establish networks by liaise with local community organizations and recruit volunteers as Family Ambassadors (FA). The FA after receiving training on communication skills, simple health assessment, home visit skills, first aid, community resource, home safety knowledge, they were paired up and provided support to vulnerable families.

Result:

From year 2005 to 2008, FNP with SW and other health professionals had conducted 8 classes of FA Training Program. Total 183 FA accredited with school students, housewife, retired, employed and unemployed persons. There were 206 families received FA supports, including simple health checking, cooking, shopping, escorting, housekeeping, haircutting, homework guiding and computer skill training. Among these families, 72 service users were transformed to become FA to service other vulnerable families. People with chronic diseases were also pulling together to form support groups such as the Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Support Group and Diabetic Mellitus Support Group.

Conclusion:

Based on the model, local networks were built; vulnerable families were supported during their critical time, in the aspects of health and social issues. These families were transformed into Family Ambassadors to help other families. The model of Family Nurse Practitioner collaborates with Social Worker in local community to build up neighborly ties is effective to assimilate hidden community resource to be serviceable.