Improving Access to Palliative Care in Rural Communities



Why Is Rural Palliative Care Vital?

- People in rural communities often enjoy the benefit of long-standing social networks, but tend to be older, sicker, and poorer than in urban areas without ready access to high-quality, patient-centered, coordinated care and support.
- Palliative care helps individuals, families, clinicians, and communities who are dealing with serious illness by preventing and relieving stress and suffering.
- "Whole person" palliative care not only relieves suffering by identifying, assessing, and treating pain, but also addresses other physical, psychosocial, and spiritual needs.
- Ensuring that patients with serious illness receive care that is consistent with their goals and values is a critical component of high-quality care that results in peace of mind and lower costs.

Why Stratis Health?

- The Stratis Health team is comprised of multi-faceted experts who have specialized since 2008 in helping rural communities build and sustain successful palliative care programs.
- Our agile staff delivers data-driven insights, evidence-based interventions, and leading-edge improvement methodologies that inspire organizations and communities to discover and implement solutions to persistent challenges associated with treating advanced and complex illness.
- We have deep expertise in working with vulnerable and underserved populations including rural, marginalized, and low-income populations.
- Stratis Health is uniquely qualified to help rural communities increase access to high-quality, patient-centered, coordinated care and support.

Stratis Health's Impact

Supported developments of community-based palliative care services:

- Helped community teams improve levels of experience or expertise in a variety of core palliative care clinical and operational processes.
- Decreased unnecessary health care utilization, including emergency department visits and hospital stays.
- Improved symptom management for patients.
- Achieved high patient satisfaction ratings by ensuring support that honors stated goals.

Resources

- Structured process for development/implementation (facilitated planning and networking support)
- Toolkit
- Sustainability strategies
- Data collection tools

Palliative Care Reduces Avoidable Spending and Utilization In All Settings

48% readmissions 28% cost/day

50% admissions 35% ED visits

Inpatient

hospital/ ED transfers Outpatient

36% total costs

Skilled Nursing

Home-Based



Rural Palliative Care

The Stratis Health "Formula for Program Development"

community data and goals, stakeholder input, and a community-based team

Alignment with national standards and connection to resources Structured process for development and implementation including facilitated planning and networking

Custom-designed community-based rural palliative care program

Rural Community-Based Palliative Care Service

Development Framework

Identify champions and partners

Assess community needs and gaps

OUNDATION

Professional education and awareness

Develop/enhance clinical skills

Community-wide processes for advance care planning, development, documentation and communication

Community education and awareness

PROCESS

Develop processes and workflow for service(s)

Identify and develop processes to ensure connection to community services and supports

Identify and develop business case

OEVELOPMEN

OMPONENTS SERVICE

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StratisHealth

Stratis Health is a nonprofit organization that leads collaboration and innovation in health care quality and safety, and serves as a trusted expert in facilitating improvement for people and communities.

www.stratishealth.org twittercom/StratisHealth linkedin.com/company/StratisHealth

Stratis Health 2901 Metro Drive, Suite 400, Bloomington, MN 55425 Phone 952-896-5186 Identify target population and implement pilot

Collect data, enhance and refine processes

Expand and broaden services

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