

Bertha Rosenstadt Trust FIFSW Showcase February 6, 2015

Department of Social Work
The Hospital for Sick Children
Barbara Muskat, PhD, RSW, presenter



Healthier Children. A Better World.

SickKids
THE HOSPITAL FOR
SICK CHILDREN

Social Work student program at SickKids

- * Average 14-16 student placements per year
 - * Year 1, year 2 plus summer blocks
- * Direct practice, indirect practice and research placements
- * In addition to supervision
 - * Well-established weekly educational sessions
 - * Social work practitioners and key hospital leaders
- * Optional Family Therapy Training Program
- * Participation in departmental initiatives and events



Two projects funded by Bertha Rosenstadt Fund

- * Developing, teaching and evaluating a course: “Social Work Practice in Pediatric Health Care” at SickKids
- * Bringing Community Leaders to a Paediatric Hospital Setting: Evaluation of a Group Support Program for Children/Youth with HIV.



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Social work practice in pediatric health care

- * Department has offered long-standing student seminar series
- * Department staff also frequently invited to present in MSW courses
- * Proposed and accepted as spring elective
- * Taught on-site at SickKids
- * Syllabus
 - * Broad topics (i.e. Bioethics; Patient and Family Centred Care; Palliative death & bereavement) and specific topics (i.e.: SW in HIV, Ophthalmology; Cardiology)
 - * Delivered by social work practitioners



Evaluation

- * Informal:
 - * Fully subscribed (23-26 students)
 - * Student on-line feedback very positive about content, instructors and location
 - * Staff felt valued-recognized--having specialized expertise
 - * Prepared students for SK placements



Bertha Rosenstadt Fund Support

- * Formal evaluation
 - * Protocol development
 - * REB submission
 - * Recruitment of students and social workers
 - * Interviews
 - * Transcription
 - * Analysis
- * Analysis in progress



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Bringing Community Leaders to a Paediatric Hospital Setting: Evaluation of a Group Support Program for Children/Youth with HIV.

- * Teresa Group
 - * Community agency-independent charitable organization
 - * Extensively developed & delivered support groups for children/youth infected and affected by HIV (Shindler & Tangelder, 2010; Goldstein, et al, 1996).
 - * Quantitative study
 - * Decreased anxiety & depression in participants (Antle, 2001; Goldstein, et al, 1996; Shindler & Tangelder, 2010). Group model for children & youth with HIV developed by the Teresa Group
 - * Evaluated & found to be effective
- * Staff from the Teresa Group invited to run groups for children & youth with HIV at SickKids HIV clinic



Evaluation

- * Research questions
 - * Was the group effective? If so, what were the benefits?
 - * Are there challenges to importing a community-based program to a hospital setting?
- * Qualitative interviews with:
 - * Child/youth participants
 - * Their parents
 - * Children youth who chose not to participate
 - * Their parents
 - * Staff of Teresa Group & staff of HIV clinic



Bertha Rosenstadt Fund Support

- * Protocol development, REB approval
- * Small thank you gifts for participants
- * No cost
 - * Consent process & interviews conducted by SW research placement student
 - * Interviews analyzed by SW placement students
- * Transcription
- * Conference posters/presentations



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Findings

- * Group well appreciated
- * Children/youth/parents
 - * Convenience
 - * Support/all in the same boat
 - * Taboo topics
 - * Learning about condition
 - * Replacement family
 - * Treatment adherence
- * Non-attendees
 - * Groups not for everyone



Findings

- * Maintaining consistent communication between agency and clinic staff
 - * clarity of the group's purpose
 - * content of groups
 - * clarification of roles
 - * clarity about the extent and limits of allowable communication between the staff groups, in order to respect privacy and confidentiality of patient/client relationships
- * Maintaining trust
 - * Nurturing the relationship between staff groups
 - * Has complications: who 'owns' the clients
 - * Requires well developed communication process, including
 - * What information gets communicated and to whom
- * Evaluation process enhanced collaboration



Knowledge transfer

- * Team discussion and improved processes
- * Findings shared at
 - * HIV conferences, group work conferences, CSWE
 - * Paper submitted for publication



Gratitude for funds



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