

“We're not a hindrance; we're an enhancement": Community organization perspectives on barriers and facilitators to Advance Care Planning in BC.

Presenters

E Siden, R Carter, E Hassan, D Barwich

Learner-Centred Presentation Objective

Describe the highest priority barriers and facilitators to improve Advance Care Planning in BC according to community-based organizations.

Context

While there are many possible ways to increase Advance Care Planning (ACP) engagement, no single intervention will work on its own, and the most effective aren't known. Funding bodies and policymakers need information upon which to base their decisions of which interventions have the most promise. The perspectives of community-based non-profit organisations on Advance Care Planning barriers and facilitators had not been studied, despite these organisations' ability to provide targeted, low-cost support. Understanding the perspectives of this group provides a different and valuable addition to current knowledge.

Intervention

We used a mixed-methods approach of online surveys and telephone interviews, asking participants to rank lists of barriers and facilitators to Advance Care Planning engagement. Participants were staff and volunteers at BC community-based non-profits supporting seniors or those affected by serious illness that were providing or interested in providing Advance Care Planning education to the public.

Results

The highest ranked barriers were: lack of public awareness or knowledge; emotional difficulty of the conversation; and belief Advance Care Planning is synonymous with Do-Not-Resuscitate Designations.

The highest ranked facilitators were: developing clear and simple messages; improving Advance Care Planning literacy (public and healthcare providers); reframing as part of life planning; and simplifying the documentation and transfer of Advance Care Planning conversations. We found a novel barrier - difficulties collaborating with the healthcare system and healthcare providers. Participants wish to collaborate with the healthcare system, however described various issues doing so.

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Discussion

Many community-based organisations are eager to improve awareness and uptake of Advance Care Planning within their communities, maximizing impact by partnering with health authorities and other organizations. To maximize the effectiveness of their activities, community-based organizations identified the need for enabling initiatives that ensure the ACP messaging, resources, conversation, and documentation across the province are clear, simple, consistent and accessible.