



5th International Public Health & Palliative Care Conference

Ottawa Conference and Event Centre, 200 Coventry Road, Ottawa ON. 2017

Presentation / Poster Title

Mobilising circles of care: Rhetoric or reality?

Learning Theme(s)

- Creating participatory community partnerships

Provide a clear, concise description of your workshop, oral presentation or poster

In 2012 Abel et al. proposed a model of care identifying a person with an illness at the centre of a network which includes inner and outer networks, communities and service delivery organisations. Abel et al. argued that community development should redefine the practice of palliative care and his conceptual model served as the basis for Milford Care Centre's Good Neighbour Partnership (GNP) - a volunteer programme of social care and practical support for people at the end of life. Evaluation of the GNP, through the INSPIRE study, leads us to question whether the concept of mobilising circles of care is merely rhetoric or indeed a reality. What benefit can mobilisation bring, and to who? What happens when the circle of care simply does not exist? Are models like this simply allowing health service providers and policy makers 'off the hook'? The author will debate these issues drawing on real life cases from practice.

Please provide an overall description of your workshop, oral or poster presentation, to be listed in the conference syllabus. Do not include title or author information

This oral presentation considers a model of care proposed by Julian Abel and colleagues in 2012 that sees community development redefining the practice of palliative care. Central to Abel et al's proposition is the concept of 'circles of care' where a person living with an illness is viewed at the centre of a network which includes inner and outer networks, communities and service delivery organisations. Abel et al's model served as part of the conceptual framework underpinning a volunteer-led programme of social care and practical support for people at the end of life in Ireland. Evaluation of that model, through the INSPIRE study, leads us to question whether the concept of mobilising circles of care is merely rhetoric or indeed a reality. What benefit can mobilisation bring, and to who? What happens when the circle of care simply does not exist? Are models like this simply allowing health service providers and policy makers 'off the hook'? Who should be co-ordinating these models? The author will debate these issues drawing from a sample of 10 real life cases from practice.

What skills and/or knowledge will your audience gain from your workshop, oral presentation or poster? Please explain how participants can apply the skills and or knowledge within their communities.

Participants will be introduced to Abel's Circles of Care concept and provided with an opportunity to learn more about Milford Care Centre's volunteer-led Good Neighbour Partnership. They will be offered a balanced debate on Abel's theory based on real life cases from practice. Furthermore the audience will hear about the experience of delivering and evaluating a volunteer-led model of care and support to people at end of life. Resources including a volunteer training manual, volunteer handbook and project documentation will be shared should members of the audience seek to deliver a model like this in their own communities.

How will your workshop, oral presentation or poster add to existing knowledge of public health and palliative care?

The presentation will share new evidence from the INSPIRE study for the first time to an International audience, integrating this evidence into an important theoretical framework from the field of public health and palliative care. The presentation offer an opportunity to continue the dialogue started at the last PHPCI conference in Bristol where the GNP model and associated training programme for volunteers was presented.