

Patient Navigation Community Liaison



Patient Navigation Community Liaison

- To improve access and education to communities that have traditionally found it difficult to access cancer care



- Community Liaison is a response to contracted research in the African Nova Scotian community
- The African Nova Scotians represent 4% of the population
- The largest minority group in the province with a heritage dating back to the early 1600's



Africentric Research

- Methodology is holistic, integrative and participatory
- Qualitative data was collected utilizing personal interviews, telephone interviews and focus groups
- Recruitment through community contacts such as church bulletins, newsletters and cultural programs



Key Findings

- The negative impact of institutional racism on health
- Under-representation of African Nova Scotians in the health professions
- Cancer literature not culturally sensitive
- Health professionals not aware of risk factors in certain diseases



African Nova Scotians' Experience

Recommendations

- More culturally specific material
- Increased sensitivity by cancer specialists
- Community recruitment for health professionals
- Properly trained volunteers re: anti-racism education
- Research specific to African people
- Formal recognition of already available community supports



Recommendations (continued)

- African outreach workers
- Use calm, non-hurried and sensitive approach to multi-disciplinary education
- Emotional/Financial Assistance
- 24 hour hot line
- Training for family members to assist in home care



Patient Navigation Community Liaison

Works with diverse communities to:

- Identify their unique needs
- Develop strategies to meet these needs
- Establish and maintain a network of Community Leaders, volunteers and Professionals

Helps patients and families through the cancer system by:

- Introducing the Patient Navigator and explaining the navigator's role
- Bringing individual needs to the attention of the appropriate Patient Navigator
- Educating the Patient Navigators about the unique needs of diverse communities



Patient Navigation Community Liaison

- Assists family physicians, surgeons, community based specialists, oncologists and other health professionals by:
 - Promoting a better understanding of the values and beliefs of diverse communities
 - Encouraging education in cultural sensitivity



Community Liaison

- Returned report and visited twenty (20) African Nova Scotian communities since May 2002
- Participated in community prevention education sessions.
- Educated health professionals re: the role of Community Liaison.



Community Liaison cont;

- Arranged Diversity Awareness Workshop for *Cancer Care Nova Scotia* staff and Cancer Center staff.
- Involved in local and national communities ensuring cancer related information is reflective of diverse cultures.
- Working with Health Association of African Canadians (HAAC) to increase awareness of health/cancer related issues.



Community Liaison cont;

- Participating in a number of Provincial Department of Health initiatives; Diversity and Social Inclusion and Hospice Palliative Care project.
- Planned and developed the Lay Educator program.
- Patient Navigator and community collaborate on health education and community projects



Lay Educator Program

- Community need for cancer related education identified by Youth
- Program adapted from previous model to meet the community needs
- Evaluation to see if transferable to other communities



Cross Cultural Summer Student

- Developed to encourage recruitment of African Nova Scotians in the field of oncology
- Student evaluated the Lay Educator program



Lay Educator Evaluation

- Positive impact on the community
- Cancer related information delivered by community members
- Recommended transference of the model to other African Nova Scotian communities



First Nations Community

- Represent 1.9% of the populations in Nova Scotia
- 13 bands make up the Union Of Nova Scotia Indians and Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq



First Nations Community

Cont;

- Community Liaison introduced Patient Navigators to Community Health Reps.
- Cancer related information provided for First Nations newspaper



First Nations Community

Cont;

- Presented the role of Patient Navigation and Community Liaison at the annual Atlantic Mi'kmaq and Maliseet Health conference
- Mi'kmaq Health Research Group to conduct cancer related need assessment



Immigrant Community

- Researchers have been contracted to conduct a needs assessment in five Immigrant communities in Metro Halifax



Future Directions

- Continue working with African Nova Scotian communities
- Respond to recommendations from needs assessment of the First Nations and Immigrant communities



The End

