



Healthcare Workforce Training in Supporting Family Caregivers of Seniors-in-Care

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Background

- Family caregivers (FCGs) are the backbone, ‘the shadow workforce’ of our society and healthcare system.
- There is increasing evidence that caregiving is being provided at significant physical, emotional and financial costs to family caregivers.
- Healthcare providers (HCPs) receive little or no education/training on how to support FCGs.

It is time for healthcare providers to learn how to connect with family caregivers and how to treat them as an integral part of the care team.

-Attendee, *Supporting Family Caregivers of Seniors within Acute and Continuing Care Systems Symposium* (2016)



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- Collaborative one-day event (February 22, 2018)
- 40 stakeholders from across Alberta: HCPs; FCGs; senior's service organizations; academics; policy makers
- Shared experiences and knowledge about what optimal training for HCPs might look like and how it could be implemented and sustained





Objectives

The meeting will create and foster a cross-sectoral dialogue to:

1. Establish the key areas of education needed for healthcare providers to support family caregivers of seniors
2. Involve family caregivers in the exploration, and development of education and training
3. Identify opportunities, approaches and training tools for all care settings



Pre-Meeting

Determine key areas of focus:

- Previous symposia reports (2016 & 2017)
- Literature Review & Environmental Scan
- Survey of meeting participants (29 responses)
 - What do FCGS need from HCPs?
 - What do HCPs need to support FCGs?
 - What resources or education tools exist for HCPs?
 - What outcomes are expected from the day?





Five Working Groups; 3 Discussion Sessions

Key Areas of Focus:

- **Culture change** in the healthcare system
- **Communication** between HCPs and FCGs
- **Assessment** of FCG needs: individualized
- **Navigating the healthcare system and access to resources:** timely and flexible
- **Organizational support:** for HCP training; creation/examination of policies



Next Steps

- Final report to stakeholders/participants
- Briefing note to inform healthcare system policies and procedures in supporting FCGs
- Academic stakeholder group to develop education materials for trainees/students in healthcare professions
- CH Network, in collaboration with stakeholders, to develop interactive training modules for HCPs
- Information campaign to increase HCP awareness of resources for supporting FCGs
- Integration/use of a caregiver assessment tool in AHS Home Care and Supportive Living
- Journal publications and conference presentations



Need more information?

