TRANSITIONAL CARE PROGRAM: A GRANT PROPOSAL

Katherine Anne Tyner
California State University, Long Beach
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In California, the population of older adults is expected to grow twice as fast as the rest of the population (California Department of Aging, 2013).

Unintentional falls are the leading cause of hospital admission among older adults (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2013).

Many older adults are not aware of the resources available to the in their community.

A transitional care team will focus on enabling older adults to maintain their independence, increase their quality of life, educate and provide information on programs and agencies in their community. The team consists of a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Physical Therapist and Registered Nurse.
“Social workers draw on their knowledge, values, and skills to help people in need and to address social problems” (National Association of Social Workers, 2008).

With the growing population of older adults, the need for geriatric social workers is rapidly increasing. Older adults will need social workers to advocate, counsel and offer services during times of sickness, loss and confusion.

“The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human wellbeing and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty” (NASW, 2008).

Social workers will provide older adults with the tools they need to maintain their independence and live a healthy, fulfilling life without judgment or criticism.
Orange County’s Older Adult Population:
65.7% Caucasian
14.2% Hispanic
17.5% Asian/Pacific Islander
2.5% Other

Orange County is host to one of the most diverse populations in California, as well as having one of the highest populations of older adults (United States Census Bureau, 2013). A transitional care program will benefit all cultures. Social workers will be able to link participants to programs and community resources specific to their culture, ethnicity and religion.
Target Population

- Older adults 65 years and older
- Residents of South Orange County, California
- Recently discharged from a hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility

Strategies for Seeking a Funding Source

- Internet: federal, state and foundation websites, Google, Yahoo
- Long Beach Nonprofit Library - narrowing down key terms and where to search
- Narrowing down grants: deadlines, amount of award offer, mission of foundation’s funding, target population and geographic locations served

Funding Source: Archstone Foundation

The Archstone Foundation’s goal is to prepare society for an aging population building on research, program innovation and trends through strategic initiatives and responsive grant-making.
Sources Used for Needs Assessment
- United States Census Bureau
- California Department of Aging
- Age Well Senior Services, Laguna Woods, California
- Nifty After Fifty, Laguna Woods, California

Projected Budget
$270,738.00

Budget Categories
- Personnel: Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Physical Therapist and Registered Nurse
- Benefits @ 25%
- Program Supplies
- Transportation
- Medical Equipment
Program Description
Upon leaving a hospital setting, an older adult who has been referred to the Transitional Care Program by their primary care physician will be seen in their own home by the LCSW (Program Director). At this time they will be assessed, interviewed and screened to determine their primary needs, preferences and goals. Each team member will visit the participant to conduct an assessment and develop a care plan. All interactions will be held at the home of the participant. The team will work with each other as well as the participant’s PCP and specialists to offer the best quality and continuity of care.

Population Served
- South Orange County residents
- Over the age of 65
- Recently out of a hospital or Skilled Nursing Facility
- Minimum of one chronic disease

Sustainability
The grant writer will reapply for grant awards when the funding has expired.
Program Objectives

1. To introduce and encourage the participant to use the resources available to them in their communities.
2. To educate the participant on risk factors and preventative measures regarding hospitalization.
3. To educate the participant on the benefits of balance, mobility and exercise techniques to decrease the risk of falling.
4. To provide emotional support to the participant and their family regarding quality of life and future planning.

Program Evaluation

- Physicians and agencies working with the team will be offered an evaluation twice a year
- Participants will be offered to fill out an evaluation regarding the team and their experience at the time of termination
- Questions will measure participant’s progress and satisfaction with services received
- The team will review evaluations throughout the year
Lessons Learned
Researching for a funding source was the most challenging aspect of this project. The number of grants available was unlimited, however those which this program qualified for were minimal. Research on transitional care programs is also scarce, however the studies done on older adults needing assistance is overwhelming. Overall, the experience was educational and beneficial to the grant writer’s future.

Social Work Implications
Grant writing is a beneficial tool for social workers and is relevant to the profession in both practice and policy. With this experience, the grant writer learned how to secure funds to build programs serving the older adult population. The individuals being served will benefit from collaborating with other health care professionals offering them continuity of care. The research that was completed in writing the grant only could have been learned with years of experience in the field and learning through other health care professionals.
REFERENCES


