



Building Citizen Engagement in the Translating Research in Elder Care Program

Overview

Long-term care (LTC) homes provide 24-hour residential care to older adults who can no longer live safely in their own home. LTC residents tend to have multiple chronic conditions, including a high prevalence of dementia, and advanced physical and cognitive impairments. The majority of care is provided by unregulated care aides who generally have limited job-specific training but face increasingly complex work demands. Despite decades of research in the area, quality of care problems persist and poor resident outcomes are common. The Translating Research in Elder Care (TREC) team is a 10-year old, pan-Canadian group of multidisciplinary researchers, decision makers, and care providers with a shared mission to improve the quality of care of LTC residents and the quality of work-life for their paid caregivers. In 2016, a citizen advisory group, Voices of Individuals, Family and Friend Caregivers Educating Us (VOICES), was established and includes 12 members either living with dementia or with family member in LTC. In this proposal, our overall goal is to move VOICES from its current advisory role into a more fully partnered function. To do this, we will undertake two core activities, each of which reflects a VOICES' identified priority to prepare for more integrated engagement.

These activities are:

- 1) Comprehensive training on engagement in research for the entire TREC team, including VOICES, decision makers, investigators, staff, and trainees; and
- 2) A formal priority setting exercise that will bring together VOICES members and other stakeholders to jointly identify 10 priority research questions that can be addressed using TREC's existing longitudinal data repository.

For more information contact the CLPNA's Research department Ask CLPNA, info@clpna.com or phone 780-484-8886 or 1-800-661-5877 (toll free in Alberta).