

Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Conference

Rural and Remote Interest Group Meeting

Sunday October 26th @ 11:00am – 12:30 pm.
The Pekeha Room

The meeting was called to order @ 11:00 am by chair Linda Abbott RN, CHPCN(C).

The CHPCA Interest Group Terms of Reference were reviewed and all present were provided with a copy.

All present were encouraged to become a member of CHPCA if they had not already done so.

Information on List Serves was provided to all present at the meeting.

A volunteer was requested to take notes of the meeting and Lynn Riddell RN agreed to do so.

All were welcomed to the interest group meeting and everyone present introduced themselves and told us who they were, where they worked / lived and their interest in palliative care.

(See sign in sheet)

The agenda was reviewed and Residential Care was added to the agenda

The Issues

Difficulty getting personal to work in rural and remote issues was discussed:

- unable to get qualified staff
- no home workers available when needed in the home
- no one available to coordinate services in many area's
- education desperately needed and one of the major difficulties was that staff don't usually have only palliative care patients and therefore need to keep current in many area's
- services varied hugely depending on the where you live – some communities has very organized palliative care programs while others report no organization.
- some area's had access to drug kits after normal working hours but most did not – this was viewed as a major dilemma when the dying person has to wait for a pharmacy to open to address symptoms

All present participated in the discussion and while we couldn't solve problems we felt we could share our successes and our failures through the list serve group and that would benefit us and others.

Shelly Cory, MA Executive Director of Canadian Virtual Hospice was present and was asked by the chair if she wanted to address the group and she did a review of what virtual hospice had to offer. She certainly enlightened us to the benefits of using this tool that is available to us wherever we work and at no cost. She advised us the site is presently being revised and should be of even more benefit in the near future.

Linda Abbott thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for participating so openly in discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.