Background

- Parents and families who have a perinatal loss report significant grief.
- Nurses report it is challenging to care for parents and families who have experienced a perinatal loss.
- Management and education personnel identified the need for bereavement education.

Purpose

To examine the impact of a standardized bereavement training program on staff nurses’ perception of their ability to provide effective care for patients experiencing perinatal loss.

Participants

- Pilot Project: (N = 18)
  - Staff Nurses: n = 15
  - Interdisciplinary: n = 3
  - Female: n = 17
  - Male: n = 1

- Project: (N = 22)
  - Staff Nurses: n = 22
  - Female: n = 22
  - Male: n = 1

Method/Measures

- Women’s Services registered nurses (n = 3)
- Enrolled in two day bereavement class training and certification.
- Completed Resolve Through Sharing (RST) Bereavement Coordinator training.
- 3 Coordinators:
  - Initiated internal RST classes with staff members.
  - Conducted a quasi-experimental study.
  - Pre-test/post-test
  - Intervention: RTS bereavement training.
  - Investigator developed survey.
  - Pilot survey prior to investigation.
  - Revised survey based on pilot data/feedback.
  - Developed interdisciplinary bereavement committee to improve collaboration when parents and families experience perinatal loss.
  - Obtained competency based pay after completion of education classes.

Data Collection/Analysis

- Participants completed pre-intervention survey.
- Participants took Resolve Through Sharing classes.
- RST Bereavement Coordinator(s) provided training intervention.
- Participants completed post-intervention survey.
- Frequencies of responses calculated on:
  - Pre-survey
  - Post-survey

Results

- Participants perceptions of effective care with perinatal loss, including competence, confidence, and care gain was measured by pre and post intervention surveys.

Discussion

- During this project, staff nurses were able to work with 20 families who experienced a perinatal loss.
- After care was provided, many patients shared positive feedback regarding their appreciation.
- By implementing this project, the following conditions were established:
  - RTS Trained Bereavement Coordinators (n = 3)
  - Evidence Based Standardized Bereavement Care
  - Creation of Bereavement Committee

Next Steps

- Implement the bereavement program throughout the hospital at every potential patient entry point.

Leadership Journey

Model the Way

- Initiating bereavement project through STTI.
- Completed bereavement 3 day instructor course.
- Training on debriefing sessions and follow-up phone calls.

Inspire a Shared Vision

- Created interdisciplinary bereavement committee to improve collaboration.

Challenge the Process

- Obtained funding and time for staff nurses to attend training.
- Expanded enrollment option to encompass all facility departments.

Enable Others to Act

- Provided bereavement training to staff nurses and interdisciplinary professionals.
- Implemented new evidence based bereavement policy and procedure.
- Expanding training to bereavement committee members on debriefing sessions.

Encourage the Heart

- Personal thank you cards to all bereavement committee members.
- In person expression of gratitude to bereavement committee members.

Fellow’s Perspective: “I honestly did not know what all to expect when I applied to the MCH Leadership Academy, but what an opportunity I have been given! It has truly been an honor to work with such great nurses! I have stretched and grown more than I thought possible as a leader in my profession and also in my personal life. It would have taken me two decades or more to become the leader I am today after completing the MCH Leadership Academy.”

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