

Defining, Evaluating and Articulating the Role of Social Work in Pediatric Palliative Care

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CCCC 9th Annual Conference and Summit

March 13th, 2017



Disclosures

- The presenters have nothing to disclose

Objectives

- To define the scope of practice and unique role of PPC social workers
- To understand at least three challenges that PPC social workers face in establishing their seat at the table
- To name two strategies to communicate about and advocate for the need for PPC social workers within pediatric palliative and hospice care teams

Workshop Agenda

- Introductions
- Scope of practice for pediatric palliative care SW (PPCSW)
- Case discussion
- Challenges and strategies
- Wrap up

Social Work Core Values

- Service
- Social justice and advocacy
- Dignity and the worth of every person
- Relationships
- Integrity and honesty
- Competence

Why is defining the role of the PPCSW so challenging?

- Overlapping roles
- Multiple social workers/psychosocial providers
- Lack of clarity about skills
 - Varying skills/interests between practitioners
- Gaps in advocacy, education and leadership
- Need for systemic education about palliative care
- Unique hospital cultures/structures
- Time for clinical practice

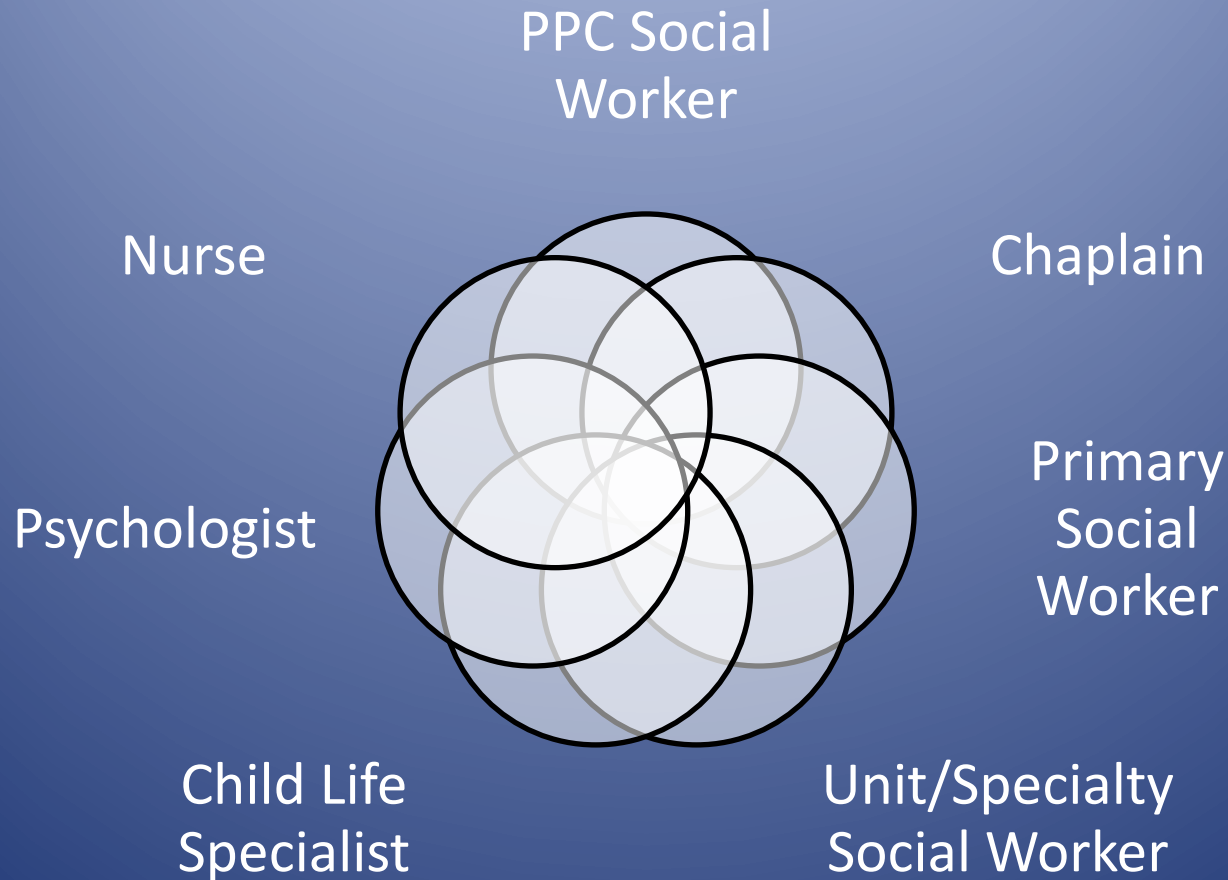
Common Roles of the Social Worker

- Bio-psychosocial aspects of health/wellness
- Spiritual aspects of health/wellness
- Compassion, respect, autonomy, sensitivity, safety
- Family-systems
- Advocacy, resources
- Counseling
- Self-awareness
- Professional ethics/values
- Collaboration
- Staff support

Competencies of the PPCSW

- Assessment skills, including ability to assess for physical and existential pain, adequacy of care system, patient/environmental safety
- Ability to provide psychoeducation on grief, coping strategies, stress management skills, self-care, and developmental stages
- Facilitate life review
- Access and advocate for internal and external resources
- Discharge planning and case management skills
- Assist with funeral planning
- Self-care/staff support
- Advocacy/education/leadership in PPC
- Expansive knowledge across multiple settings of care and fields of practice

Overlapping Roles of Psychosocial Providers



Enhanced Role of Pediatric Palliative Care Social Worker

- Psycho/Social/Spiritual Assessment
- Supportive Listening/Processing
- Psycho-Education
- Advance Care Planning
- Crisis Intervention & Counseling
- Anticipatory Guidance
- Team/Family Meetings
- Communication/Care Coordination
- Operationalize Plan of Care
- Expertise Across Continuum of Diverse Conditions/Disease Populations/Settings
- Patient/Family Advocacy
- Legacy/Memory/Meaning Making Activities
- Grief & Bereavement Support
- Funeral/Ritual Planning
- Staff Education
- Staff Support & Debriefing
- Ethical Considerations
- Symptom Management

Case Discussion Parts 1-2

- What is your assessment?
Intervention/treatments recommendations?
- How do you plan to support Lydia? Brother?
Mother? Father? The staff?
- What are the dynamics to consider regarding
Lydia's other psychosocial providers?

Case Discussion Parts 3-5

- How would you approach this situation?
- Who would you want present?
- Who would you engage? Who would you collaborate with? Who would you ask for help?
- How would you approach self-care and support for other providers?

What are the common challenges?

What are the potential strategies?

What are methods to improve the role of PPCSW in your hospital?

- Define the role based on local needs
- Clarify/educate about the role throughout the hospital
 - Psychosocial providers
 - Services with high rated of PPC utilization
- Create partnerships with leadership
- Relationships
- Communication
- Engage/Empower other clinicians

What's your elevator speech?

Take Home Points

- Work with your PPC team to determine the PPCSW scope of practice/role
- Educate others about the unique competencies of the PPCSW
- Utilize relationships with other staff and leadership to build shared practices
- Advocacy

Thank you!

- Questions/Comments
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