SAN QUENTIN PROJECT

CCCC APRIL 9TH, 2019
SUSAN A. BARBER - MISSION HOSPICE & HOME CARE
LADYBIRD MORGAN, RN, MSW & MARVIN MUTCH - HUMANE HOSPICE PRISON PROJECT
GUIDING PRINCIPLE

“When speaking on end of life care, no one should be excluded. Dying with dignity is an essential component of our humanity, and needs to be extended even into the shadows of our society where far too often there are those who will die alone.”

~ Marvin Mutch
The number of elderly people inside U.S. prisons is growing, and few provide meaningful end-of-life care. Most inmates who die in prison die isolated in hospital beds. Out of 35 prisons in California, only one has a certified hospice program.
WHO WE ARE

• Ladybird Morgan, RN, MSW – Co Founder of the Humane Prison Hospice Project

• Marvin Mutch – Unjustly incarcerated for 41 years, released from prison in 2016. Program Associate: Humane Prison Hospice Project (The Trials of Marvin Mutch made by KQED: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CTWG5WYw8ws)

• Susan Barber, Community Education Manager, Mission Hospice & Home Care
TAKE AWAYS

• Share an understanding of the acute need for hospice programs in CA/U.S. prisons

• Identify how we partnered with other community organizations to bring end-of-life care training to prisoners

• Understand the need, and benefit, of having prisoners trained as compassionate end of life care volunteers (even if no hospice exists)

• Share what we have learned and are learning
QUALITY END OF LIFE CARE FOR ALL?
AN AGING POPULATION

• The U.S. makes up 5% of the world population and 25% of the incarcerated population of the world.

• Between 1999 and 2016, the number of inmates age 55 and older has increased by 280%.

• By 2030, it’s expected that one in three inmates will be over 55.

• California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation reports at end of year 2017, more than 18,500 prisoners are over 50.

• In CA, average life expectancy in prison is 57 for males.
DYING BEHIND BARS

- According to the Justice Department, 12 inmates die every day, and approximately 5,000 inmates die each year behind bars.

- Compassionate release is a legal way for a prisoner who is dying to be released to his/her family to die at home. 6% of Compassionate release requests are filled per year.

- The Federal Bureau of Prisons Reports (2013-2017) that of 5,400 applications for compassionate release*, only 312 have been approved so far. 266 applicants have died waiting in custody.
A COSTLY PROBLEM

• Cost to California taxpayer:

  • $13 billion a year, or $76,000 per “healthy” prisoner (CDCR)

  • That number almost doubles if a prisoner is sick, elderly, or dying. Some have estimated costs of up to $2 million per dying prisoner (GeriPal 7/2017).

• CA has a dedicated 17 bed hospice, part of the California Medical Facility, in Vacaville. All prisoners come from other prisons – not hospice “at home.”

• There is a second hospice program at SLO Men’s Colony with prisoner’s trained as hospice volunteers.
IT MAKES ME MAD AT C.D.C THAT WE DON'T HAVE HOSPICE CARE IN PRISON.

THERE ARE 80-SOMETHINGS IN HERE.

WE GOT A GUY IN HERE NAMED CURLY. HE LOOKS 105, BUT HE'S 70. CAN BARELY WALK, BARELY BREATHE. WE LOOK OUT FOR HIM, AND HE'S GONNA BE A HANDFUL WHEN HE DIES.

- Lenny
WHAT WE DID – PUTTING PIECES TOGETHER

• In 2017 Prison Terminal by social documentarian Edgar Barens was part of our annual Movies@Mission Hospice film series.
  
  • Post-film panel included the producer and partners in an existing project at San Quentin.

• Mission Hospice & Home Care was invited to partner with The Humane Prison Hospice Project and Brother’s Keepers, a group of peer counselors inside San Quentin, to offer compassionate end-of-life volunteer training to an established group of Brother’s Keepers.
PRISON TERMINAL

When inmate Jack Hall became terminally ill inside the Iowa State Penitentiary, his fellow prisoners volunteered to provide his hospice care.

This moving documentary takes us inside a maximum security prison to learn more about Jack's final months and the power of hospice to transform everyone involved.

Hospice inside prison walls
Join us to watch the film and discuss prison hospice care with filmmaker Edgar Barens, former inmate Marvin Mutch, and other volunteers with the San Quentin Hospice project.

Free! Tuesday, June 27, 2017 6-8 pm
Mission Hospice & Home Care | 1670 S. Amphlett Blvd. #300, San Mateo

Space is limited to 40 - register at missionhospice.eventbrite.com
Questions? Contact Susan Barber at 650.532.2396 or sbarber@MissionHospice.org

Mission Hospice & Home Care is an independent nonprofit serving patients and families in the San Mateo County area with quality, compassionate end-of-life care and education. 650.554.1000 • www.MissionHospice.org
BROTHER’S KEEPERS

• Peer education initiative and inmate response team professionally trained and certified in crisis intervention.

• Members serve as intermediaries for inmates who are suicidal or experiencing mental health crises that might otherwise go unnoticed.

  • Suicides at San Quentin dropped dramatically after the first group of Brother’s Keepers were trained in 2005.

  • 23 men had been trained as Brother’s Keepers by Fall 2017.

  • 10 Brother’s Keepers were selected to be trained in end-of-life care, and some had waited 10 years for this training.
My cellmate got pancreatic cancer. He didn’t have a family. His daughter disowned him. So he gave up on himself. He wasn’t eating. He stopped watching TV. The officers took him to medical. He asked to come back to the cell— he didn’t want to be up there alone. So they brought him back and left him with me. His breathing became erratic. His eyes went gray. I didn’t want to call the guards but I had to.

If he died in the cell, I’d be put in the hole. That’s what happens when someone dies in your cell.

- Terry
CHALLENGES OF DEATH IN PRISON AT SAN QUENTIN

- No hospice program currently at San Quentin.
- Some Medical staff truly believed the care prisoners are getting is sufficient and palliative, some were open to the idea of hospice, but there is no hospice program at San Quentin.
- Prisoners do not typically use medical services when severely ill because if they go to a hospice/hospital, they are removed from their “community.”
- If a prisoner dies in his cell, even if his cell mate has agreed to “take care of him,” the cell mate will go to “the hole” (solitary confinement) for 3-9 months as the prison decides whether the dead prisoner was murdered.
- This compounds the grief experienced by the cell mate; often he has lost his best friend.
• Provided a two-hour training, twice a month, from September 2017 – April 2018

• Trained nine men. We started with 10, one prisoner was released. One man wasn’t able to get released from his work assignment so the other men trained him each week after our session.

• Offered a mix of our standard hospice volunteer training, and special guest professionals including:
  BJ Miller, MD – compassion and role of the MD
  Irene Smith – Touch Awareness
  Nate Hinerman, PhD – grief and loss
  A chaplain from San Quentin and our Director of Spiritual Care co-taught the piece on spiritual care at end of life
Outcomes As Quoted at the YALE LAW SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT May 21, 2018 Remarks by Justice Goodwin Liu

“Then there are the eight lifers who volunteered for eight months of hospice training so they could help aging inmates with what they fear most: not dying, but dying alone.

One of them, named Lenny, said:

“His dying made me start to change. The person who took care of him, that was a good part of me.”
WHY DO THIS WORK?
Changing Minds/Changing Hearts

• Keith Knauf, a Presbyterian chaplain who oversees the California Medical Facility’s hospice program, believes that caring for the dying teaches compassion and changes these men in profound ways.

• Of some 250 workers who have been released from prison since the program began, none has returned for a felony and only three have returned for minor parole offenses.

• Knauf’s estimates put the program’s recidivism rate at 1.2 percent. Nationally, around 25 percent of federal inmates return to prison within eight years.
Burl Cain, retired Warden of Angola State Prison in Louisiana said regarding their hospice program,

- “I can teach you skills & trades, but we’d just make a smarter Criminal, unless I can get something into your heart.

  **Becoming a prisoner hospice volunteer changes hearts...**
From a research study done at Angola, sited below, one conclusion:

“**Inmates who have the opportunity to participate as hospice volunteers describe undergoing a process of transformation in the course of providing end of life peer to peer care that they experience as building personal strength and community empowerment**.”

*(Cloyes et.al 2014; Loeb et al 2013)*
ROGER Brown, formerly incarcerated at CA Men’s Colony, volunteer in the Supportive Care Program

https://soundcloud.com/vital-signs-stories/vital-signs-prison-hospice
OPENING THE DOOR
A film by Edgar Barens
Hospice Prison Volunteers

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMLjANwBRDk

Film clips from
:30 -2:30
13:15-15:39
20:12-21:15
“Sometimes life’s most profound lessons come from unexpected places, where we would least expect to find it. Prison hospice programs have something important to teach. It is worth examining why, in aggressive and predatory prison environments, prisoners are choosing to work together, without recognition or material reward, to care for one another and to build a civil community.

Their compassion and hours of work are evidence of goodness within the human condition. Their commitment to one another is a declaration of value and dignity in every human life and a vow to build a better future right where they live.

We all have something to learn from that.”
REIMAGINE NYC 2018
Ladybird, Wendy MacNaughton, Ira Byock, Dr. Jennifer Brokaw,
UCH’S STORY
IF NOT US WHO?

WE'RE TRYING to GET IT FIXED SO WE CAN GO to THE 4TH FLOOR...

Eagle  Vaughn  John  Jody

Lenny  Uch  Terry  Derrick

IT'S NOT HAPPENING... YET.

Sam Quentin Prison - Brothers Keepers
UN PRESENTATION:
SPECIAL SESSION ON
AGING