

Madlyn and Leonard Abramson Center for Jewish Life

Annual Progress Report: 2010 Formula Grant

Reporting Period

January 1, 2011 – June 30, 2011

Formula Grant Overview

The Madlyn and Leonard Abramson Center for Jewish Life received \$17,571 in formula funds for the grant award period January 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. Accomplishments for the reporting period are described below.

Research Project 1: Project Title and Purpose

Examining Impact of Individualized Positive Psychosocial Interventions in Nursing Homes - The purpose of this project is to examine the impact of an innovative intervention designed to enhance behavior and affective quality of life outcomes for frail, cognitively impaired elders residing in a nursing home.

Anticipated Duration of Project

1/1/2011 – 6/30/2012

Project Overview

This project will conduct secondary analyses on an existing data set to examine the effectiveness of individualized positive psychosocial interventions (IPPIs) within a randomized, controlled design. The IPPI program was designed to enhance the efforts of certified nursing assistants (NAs) in caring for nursing home residents suffering from Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders (ADRD). The IPPI interventions were individually designed to fit each resident's ability level and current or past activity preferences. The Attention Control Intervention (ACI) encouraged the NA to simply pay attention to the resident. Residents in a Usual Care (UC) condition did not receive any additional one-on-one intervention, but were tracked simultaneously with subjects in the two intervention conditions.

The objective of this research is to conduct analyses on an existing data set to test hypotheses related to impacts on directly observed nursing assistant interactions, directly observed resident behavioral and affective responses, and staff reported resident outcomes.

Principal Investigator

Kimberly S. Van Haitsma, PhD
Director of Research
Madlyn and Leonard Abramson Center for Jewish Life
1425 Horsham Road
North Wales, PA 19454

Other Participating Researchers

Morton Kleban, PhD – employed by Madlyn and Leonard Abramson Center for Jewish Life

Expected Research Outcomes and Benefits

There are approximately 1.4 million adults residing in an estimated 16,100 nursing homes in the United States. A recent AARP report estimates that close to 700,000 individuals work as nursing assistants.

Neuropsychiatric behaviors and depressive symptoms are common, persistent and have profound negative consequences for nursing home residents with dementia and the staff who care for them. Regardless of etiology, behavioral and depressive symptoms reflect a dynamic interplay between pathology and physical and social environmental factors. Because behavior may be modifiable through adjustments to the physical and social environment, efforts to prevent or minimize symptoms using nonpharmacologic strategies, such as activity engagement, may enhance quality of life. Results of this study will shed light on which specific neuropsychiatric behaviors and mood related symptoms appear to be most amenable to psychosocial intervention.

The findings of this project also have the potential to impact knowledge about how to build the skill level of nursing assistants in their interactions with residents within daily clinical practice. This research will examine the efficacy of teaching nursing assistants simple, time-limited, individualized interventions that enhance positive staff-resident interactions.

Dissemination of the results of this study using both research and clinical practice venues will ensure that study impact will reach both of these audiences who will use the information in different, but complementary ways.

Summary of Research Completed

No funds were expended during this reporting period and there is no research activity to report.