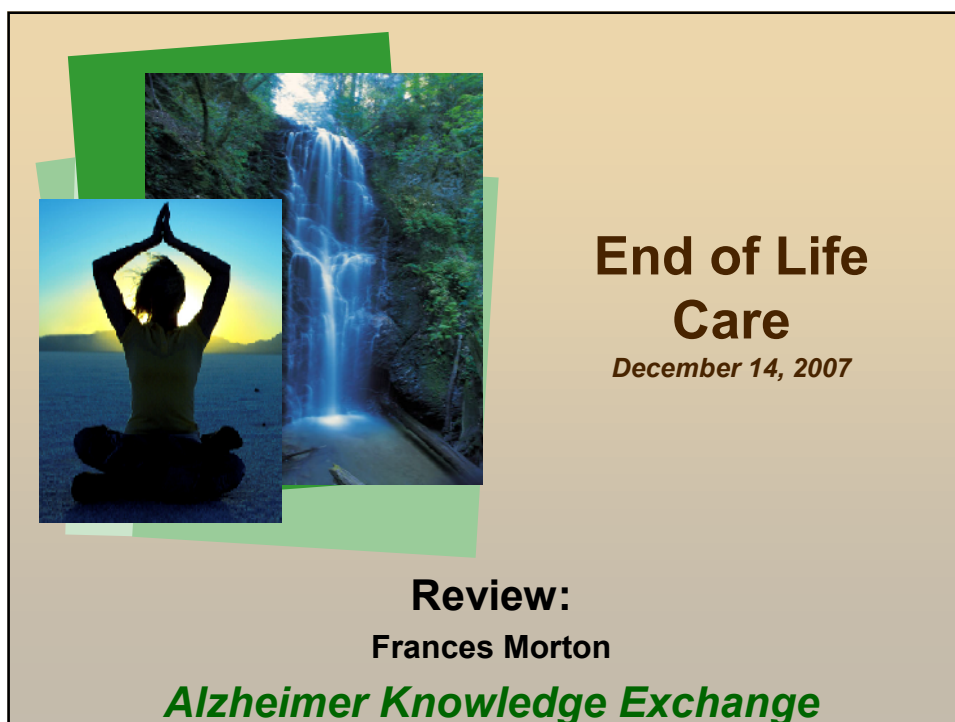


Fireside Chat
End of Life Care
December 14, 2007



**End of Life
Care**
December 14, 2007

Review:
Frances Morton
Alzheimer Knowledge Exchange

AGENDA

- ✠ Welcome and Introduction of Panel
- ✠ **Sharon Preston** (Palliative Pain & Symptom Management Coordinator/Consultant ,South East Ontario)
- ✠ **Jeyasingh David** (Program Manager – Tamil Caregiver Project, Providence Healthcare)
- ✠ **Yasmeen Rafiq** (Diversity Coordinator and First Link Coordinator, Alzheimer Society of Toronto)
- ✠ Short Review of Previous Sessions
- ✠ Success Story Presentation
- ✠ Interactive Panel Discussion

Communicating Comfort

- ✠ Beyond possible age related changes – persons with dementia will experience a number of changes to their ability to think perceive, remember & communicate
- ✠ Awareness to these possible changes is key to enhancing and accommodating more effective communication (verbal and non-verbal)
- ✠ In turn, more effective communication strategies will enhance opportunities for meaningful engagement
- ✠ Listening with all our senses
- ✠ Sometimes providing comfort and reassurance is all one needs to do
- ✠ Where does hope and the soul fit?

Meaningful Engagement

- ✦ Personhood and relationship centred care were identified as two important elements to offering sensitive/optimal care
- ✦ It is necessary to really get to know the person with dementia and their unique personalities, histories, likes, dislikes, etc.
- ✦ Consider the impact of culture, religion, and ethnicity on relationships
- ✦ Meeting the spiritual needs of persons with dementia involves opportunities for them to engage meaningfully in their own lives and recognizing that spirituality addresses needs well beyond religion)

Approaches Discussed

- ✦ Listen to and explore concerns
- ✦ Normalize activities/processes
- ✦ Reinforce person's strengths
- ✦ Enlist support from family and friends
- ✦ Encourage spirituality, ritual, & expression as appropriate
- ✦ Individualized Dementia Programming with a focus on the process of engagement not the outcome

End of Life Care

- ✦ A number of persons with dementia exist with a great deal of pain
- ✦ Pain is under diagnosed and under treated
- ✦ Impossible to interact with others if consumed by pain
- ✦ Recognizing and treating pain (arthritis using low)
- ✦ We need to deal with pain before we focus on other needs/behaviours
- ✦ Pain management expertise can empower persons with dementia, staff and family

End of Life Care Con't

- ✦ Joint presentation on Success Story and Lessons Learned from:
 - ✦ **Jeyasingh David** (Program Manager – Tamil Caregiver Project, Providence Healthcare)
 - ✦ **Yasmeen Rafiq** (Diversity Coordinator & First Link Coordinator, Alzheimer Society of Toronto)