Behavioural Supports Alberta – Supporting the management of responsive behaviours through a grassroots approach

Suzette Brémault-Phillips, OT, PhD, University of Alberta
Lynne Moulton, RN, BSN, CNe(C), Alberta Health Services
Tamara Germani, PhD Candidate, MScOT, University of Alberta
Steven Friesen, MEDes, Bethany Care Society

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Disclosure

- We have no relationship that could be perceived as placing us in a real or apparent conflict of interest in the context of this presentation.

So, what is Behaviour Supports Alberta?

- Community of interest, practice and research
- Grassroots initiative through which ideas can be exchanged across stakeholders
- Network and collaboration across ministerial and organizational lines, and among various multi-disciplinary stakeholders for which there is no other mechanism.
- Its breadth and diversity (lifespan approach across multiple diagnoses) is simultaneously its strength and challenge
Responsive Behaviours Defined

All behaviour – whether disruptive or not – has meaning.

Challenging/responsive behaviours exhibited by individuals with dementia, mental illness, addictions, brain injury, developmental disabilities and other neurological conditions (intentionally or unintentionally), are understood to be forms of communication expressed in actions, sounds, words and gestures. Such behaviours may be a reaction or response to something important to them regarding their personal, social, or physical environment, state or experience.

(Adapted from MAREP’s definition & philosophy of responsive behaviours)

Responsive Behaviours Defined

Mission

Focuses on:
- Networking
- Sharing resources and knowledge through in-person and virtual exchange to support relationships among industry, researchers, clinicians, policy makers, persons exhibiting responsive behaviours, and care partners
- Researching areas of clinical best practices, education and training, leadership and mentoring, and systems issues

Objectives

- Develop a provincial network
- Build a web portal for access to resources, and information exchange and dissemination
- Create alignments & linkages with collaborators locally, provincially and nationally
- Determine research priorities and engage in research projects in this area
- Dialogue with professional associations on the guidelines and standards of practices that impact the delivery of care in this area
Challenging Behaviours Interest and Research Group (CBIRG):
- Beginning in August of 2011, a group of clinicians, researchers and policy/decision makers (Challenging Behaviours Interest and Research Group) began meeting at the University of Alberta regarding managing responsive behaviours associated with cognitive impairment, addictions and mental health, brain injury, developmental disability
- Regular monthly meetings were established

Raymond Research Project:
- A research project was conducted through an Alberta Association of Colleges and Technical Institutions grant ($11,600) in Raymond, Alberta – submitted by NorQuest College, and jointly conducted with the University of Alberta. Front line staff were offered a 2 day training session regarding mental health conditions and the management of responsive behaviours. Staff reported being better equipped to manage client care.

Challenging/Responsive Behaviours Symposium, 2012:
- A symposium brought together key stakeholders to discuss an Alberta Action Plan re: management of responsive behaviours was planned by CBIRG and the Institute for Continuing Care Education and Research - ICCER in collaboration with Alberta Health Services Strategic Clinical Networks (SCNs) for Seniors, and Mental Health and Addictions. A small grant ($20,000.00) through IHRA (jointly applied for by the CBIRG and ICCER) funded coffee and lunch for the participants
- Symposium participants unanimously agreed to the establishment of Behavioural Supports Alberta (BSA)
ICCER sub-grant

ICCER offered BSA a sub-grant of $10,000. This was based on findings from their Community Needs Driven Research Project which determined that the management of responsive behaviours is a high priority for many stakeholders/service providers across the province. The grant monies will be used for:

- Further analysis of the data from the Challenging/Responsive Behaviours Symposium
- Further development of a web-based presence for dissemination of information, knowledge translation, and knowledge brokering
- The ICCER sub-grant is currently awaiting ethics review

Establishment of Behavioural Supports Alberta (BSA)

- A website (www.bsa.ualberta.ca) was established
- An Advisory Committee, terms of reference, mission/vision statement, and communities of practice are being formulated
- General membership will be sought as a system/mens are available on the website
- Communities of practice will be formed
- Knowledge transfer, translation and brokering will be facilitated

Networking with CDRAKE, BSO, BSS

- Linkages with national and provincial efforts are being made by BSA
- Representatives from Alberta attended a national consultation on 19/20 March 2013 in Toronto that brought together representatives from each province to discuss management of responsive behaviours
Follow up Symposia

BSA, in partnership with ICCER, has held 2 subsequent symposia:

- BSA Symposium, February, 2014
- BSA Symposium, February, 2015

Current Activities

Offers a vehicle for innovation that can inform policy and practice
Provides unique opportunities for collaboration across systems
Facilitates networking regarding
- the effective sharing and utilization of resources in the management of RBs across the lifespan, diagnoses and service sectors.
- provision of opportunities to exchange ideas and ask questions (related to policy and decision making, leadership, clinical best practices, education/training, research)

Current Activities

Members of BSA are currently
- Building partnerships - locally, provincially, and nationally
- Networking with Alberta Health Services Strategic Clinical Networks, as well as Government of Alberta representatives in Human Services and Alberta Health
- Members of Alberta Dementia Strategy and Action Plan steering and advisory committees, working and focus groups
- Preparing a web-based platform for knowledge dissemination, translation, and brokering
- Engaging with others around collaborative research initiatives
- Supporting efforts of the Seniors Health SCN ALIA Project – Appropriate use of Anti-Psychotics

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Managing Responsive Aggressive Behaviours: 
Implementing and Evaluating a 
Capacity Building Process in 
Acute Care, Supportive Living, and Long Term Care 
(A Covenant Health NESHW Funded Project)

Research Project 1: Aim

Examine ways to support site outside of LTC in the management of aggressive behaviours and 
integrate resources and insights gained from the AUA Project and BSO

Partners

Collaboration with: 
(1) Covenant Health Misericordia Hospital - 4 West 
(2) Excel Society - Balwin Villa 
(3) Capital Care Lynnwood 
(4) Strategic Clinical Networks - Seniors Health, and Addictions and Mental Health 
(5) Alberta Health Services
Research Project 2

Spreading and Sustaining the Decision Making Capacity Assessment (DMCA) Model:
Development and Evaluation of a DMCA Model Implementation and Sustainability Framework
(A Covenant Health NESHWFunded Project)

Given the provincial endorsement of the DMCA Model, a framework is needed to support sites throughout the province to adopt, implement, sustain & spread the Model.

Other Research Involvement
- Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) - mobile technologies such as cell phones and tablets - in the provision of community-based care
- Community Re-integration of Forensic Clients with Persistent, Chronic Mental Illnesses: A Retrospective Evaluation of Life Skills Training Programs Provided Through the House Next Door Society Residential Services
- Support for Family Caregivers
- Physician training in DMCA
Contacts

Behaviour Supports Alberta · www.bsa.ualberta.ca

Suzette Bremault Phillips · suzettes@ualberta.ca

Lynne Moulton · lynne.moulton@albertahealthservices.ca