



End-of-Life Nursing Education Consortium

Introduction to ELNEC

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ELNEC – National Initiative

- **Purpose - improve end-of-life care in the United States**
- **Provides nursing faculty, CE providers, staff development educators, pediatric and oncology nurses with end-of-life training**
- **Initially funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**



Collaboration between AACN



and City of Hope



ELNEC History

- 1998 publication “Peaceful Death: Recommended Competencies and Curricular Guidelines for End-of-Life Care”
- February 2000 curriculum development
- January 2001 implementation of train-the-trainer programs



History (contd)

- **July 2002 National Cancer Institute grant for graduate faculty training**
- **August 2003 National Cancer Institute grant for oncology nurse training**
- **August 2003 ELNEC-Pediatric Palliative Care course piloted**



City of Hope Previous Research

- **Curriculum Survey**
- **Textbook Review**
- **EOL Survey**



Application Process

- **Competitive**
- **Application includes training goals**
- **Selected based on supporting materials, goals, and potential to teach content to others**





Benefits to participants

- **Free 3-day intensive training**
- **1,000 page syllabus provided –hard copy and CD-ROM**
- **Two palliative care nursing texts provided**
- **\$300 stipend to offset travel expenses**
- **3-4 hotel nights**



Curriculum Development

- **Nationally recognized EOL and palliative care experts with input from advisory board and reviewers**
- **February 2000 through January 2001**
- **Focus on AACN's "Peaceful Death: Recommended Competencies and Curricular Guidelines for EOL Nursing Care"**



ELNEC Modules

- Module 1 Nursing Care at the End of Life**
- Module 2 Pain Management**
- Module 3 Symptom Management**
- Module 4 Ethics in Palliative Nursing**
- Module 5 Cultural Considerations in EOL Care**



ELNEC Modules (cont.)

- Module 6 Communication**
- Module 7 Loss, Grief, Bereavement**
- Module 8 Achieving Quality Care
at the End of Life**
- Module 9 Preparation for and Care
at the Time of Death**



Common Threads

- The family as the unit of care.
- The important role of the nurse as advocate.
- The importance of culture as an influence at the end of life.





Common Threads (cont.)

- **The critical need for attention to special populations such as children, the elderly, the poor, and the uninsured.**
- **End of life issues impact all systems of care across all settings.**
- **Critical financial issues influence end of life care.**





Common Threads (cont.)

- **End of life care is not confined only to cancer or AIDS, but rather it is essential across all life threatening illnesses and in cases of sudden death.**
- **Interdisciplinary care is essential for quality care at the end of life.**





Courses

- **8 courses sponsored by COH/AACN**
- **5 regional courses sponsored through Last Acts**

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Course	Audience	Date
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1	Undergraduate	Jan, 2001
2	Undergraduate	Mar, 2001
3	Undergraduate	June, 2001
4	Undergraduate	Aug, 2001
5	CE Providers	Nov, 2001
6	Undergraduate	Jan, 2002
7	CE Providers	Jun, 2002
8	CE Providers	Jan, 2003



Last Acts ELNEC Training

Course	Location	Date
1	Denver, CO	Sept, 2001
2	Philadelphia, PA	Nov, 2001
3	Tampa, FL	Feb, 2002
4	Seattle, WA	June, 2002
5	St Louis, MO	Sept, 2002



Outcomes

- **Trained over 2,880 nurses representing all 50 states and District of Columbia**
- **Trainers host professional development seminars**
- **Trainers incorporate ELNEC content into nursing curriculum at undergraduate and graduate levels**





Unexpected Consequences

- **Development of ELNEC Pediatric-Palliative Care**
- **Development of ELNEC Geriatric Care**
- **Development of ELNEC Critical Care**



Lessons Learned

- **Frequent communication**
- **Establishment of realistic goals –project team and ELNEC participants**
- **Development/implementation of strategic plan**



Lessons Learned (contd)

- **Importance of collaboration with nursing organizations and facilities**
- **Need for expert credible faculty**
- **Money talks!**
- **Sometimes money does not matter!**



Contact Information

- **ELNEC web site:**
www.aacn.nche.edu/ELNEC
- **List of trainers by state**
- *Connections*

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Consultant



Adapting ELNEC

- **Determine realistic target group**
- **Develop uniform curriculum**
- **Coordinate training sessions to group**
- **Attach training to existing national confs**
- ***AJN* continuing education**





Adapting ELNEC

- **Establish national center**
- **Include well-monitored web site**
- **Provide centralized resources**
- **Design/dessiminate electronic newsletter**
- **Join the speaking circuit at national events**





Collaboration