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COMMUNITY HEALTH ADVOCACY

K. Siva Priya^{*1}

^{1*}Department of Community Health Nursing, Annai Meenakshi College of Nursing, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu, India.

ABSTRACT

Nurses can impact their health care in various work settings. Community health care is to facilitate public services. Nurses gain a broad understanding in their community, in order to influence the public debate about healthcare resource distribution. They will help people secure the resources and better care to be healthy. Advocacy can come up with information to elected officials which can be a source of significant influence and reward. As a member of the nursing profession, concerned with in the policy improvement manner, the nurse has the possibility and the obligation to provide accurate and up to date informations¹. Advocacy is an organization that strengthens the problems they care about and help bringing systemic, lasting exchange. It can help community organization achieve political goals such as improving public services, transportation, information, education etc. Civil rights associations are imposed to protect better law including the legal recognition and other civil society organizations. Community advocacy helps people to take control of their own lives and provide practical support to overcome health and social care issues². The new system of government and new organizations evolving help people to have more opportunities than ever before to become involved in the decision making process which affect their lives. The act of advocating itself can open newspapers for participation in the development process. Advocacy is directed at changing the policies, positions or programs of any type of institutions, wherever change is needed advocacy has a role play³. Nurse should be organized to speak about the troubles factually, that the data be based totally on credible research and that records be double checked and supplied in a succinct manner using an understandable language. The approach should be cordial and given in a spirit of cooperation with the desire of attaining the preferred final results or as a minimum suitable compromise.

KEYWORDS

Nurse advocacy, Community, Health advocacy and Public policy.

Author for Correspondence:

Siva Priya K,
Department of Community Health Nursing,
Annai Meenakshi College of Nursing,
Coimbatore, Tamilnadu, India.

Email: nethrasivakarthik@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

Health activism is a direct service to the individual or family as well as activities to promote health and access to healthcare in communities. Community health advocacy can support and promote the rights of the people in the health care area, building the capacity to improve community health and enhance health policy initiatives focused on available, safe

and quality care⁴. The Institute of Medicine (IOM) defines health care as an establishment of partnership among practitioners, patients and their families to ensure the decisions respect patients' wants and support them to educate their decisions and participate in their own care⁵. Care giver is also one of the overreaching desires of fitness advocacy, similarly to secure more clinical systems and extra affected person involvement in health care delivery and layout. Health advisers are fitness advocates who paintings in direct care in environments which includes hospitals, network fitness centers, long term care facilities, patient services programs of non-earnings companies or in non-public, unbiased practice. Primary care providers collaborate with to mediate conflict and expedite positive change and as educators and health information specialists, advocates work to empower others. In the coverage arenas fitness advocates work for high-quality change inside the health care device, improving to get entry to fine care, safety and enhancement of people rights from positions in government companies, disorder-particular voluntary associations, grassroots and countrywide fitness, sickness-specific voluntary institutions, grassroots and national fitness coverage agencies and the media⁶.

Advocacy is the act of speaking in support of another person. Advocacy is a nonprofit organization that works to help to know your community, understand the change you want, be genuine, be creative, build a coalition and use social pressure. The term advocacy encompasses a broad range of activities including research, public education, lobbying, public policies⁴. Advocacy is the number one way promoting nonprofit development that issues care and result in systemic, lasting and alternate support. Advocacy can aid you to end up greater involvement in subjects that effect your fitness and social care. Community advocacy is noted as a non-statutory advocacy in preventative approach that permits people to be lively citizens and self-advocate in regards to choices affecting their lives. Community advocacy can equip with the expertise and talents for you to cope with fitness and social care offerings with confidence. It can support you over the phone

or face to face with things such as self-advocacy, challenging decisions about your care and treatment, accessing mental health services, healthcare or social care offerings, give up of life style care making plans, future care planning, advanced selections and more.

Ultimately community advocacy helps community to be more involved in improving public services, decisions about community life, access information, explore your choices and options in your life, understand new laws that protect the civil rights association and support you to live the life you want to live⁵.

CHANGING TRENDS IN COMMUNITY HEALTH ADVOCACY

The Shelter Rock group describes to find out a need, a health advocates association would be an organization of individual health care provider. The Association might be an open club association and not using a standardized credentialing, but could adopt a assertion of moral recommendations, to which individuals would agree to adhere.

The National Association of Healthcare Advocacy Consultants become created in 2009 and is headquartered in Berkeley, California. The initial list of contributors, most were registered nurses and social people.

The Alliance of Professional Health Advocates was established to support private patient advocates wishing to expand their knowledge, establish their credentials and grow or expand their independent private health advocacy businesses. The enterprise has improved its gain in to many components of health advocacy along with pleasant business and moral practices of this budding career⁷.

Health advocacy also has 20th century roots in network organizing round fitness hazards within the environment and in the administrative center perceived clusters of disorder. Health and issues of environmental justice are often the focus of advocacy for low income and minority urban residents and like West Harlem Environmental Action their advocacy for environmental justice encompasses health concerns. A new organization was founded to support those new private advocates,

plus those considering such a career, with legal, insurance, marketing and other business advice. The Visiting Nurse Associations of America is also a nonprofit association which is a health advocate for its nonprofit visiting nurse agencies and home health providers. The VNAA relocated in 2008 to be able to be a strong health advocate for its members⁶.

APPROACHES TO COMMUNITY HEALTH ADVOCACY

Grassroots or “bottom-up” approaches are the needs determined by community group themselves. Advocacy efforts consist of reliance on small groups, regularly called the locus alternate due to the fact they help to create a set identification and feel of reason and metropolis corridor assembly, that are used to inform the relevant network and recall an expansion of answers.

“Top-down” model are identified by outside experts or only the leaders within a community. These advocates may be professional staff of non –profit organizations or national or international professional health organizations.

Although both approaches can be successful, it is also important to know that there can be guidance from outside experts who work to assist the community members in reaching their goals. This is in which those with fitness care or fitness advertising backgrounds may be of help in the manner, thereby increasing the probabilities for success. Organizing advocacy efforts whether they are conducted from a bottom –up or top down approach. For instance, a nonprofit or nongovernmental organization that is spearheading efforts to improve health related services. Organizing community health services is a cyclical process that comprises assessment, research, action and reflection⁸.

Strengthening Community Health Advocacy

Advocacy and awareness are logically intertwined. It creates a need for advocacy to generate and sustain support.

Provides a vehicle for delivering more education and information.

Advocates keep people aware of the evolving priorities and the most current advances in

community. Strengthening advocacy can appear simultaneously on several degrees

At the most basic level, the individual becomes a self-advocate when he or she feels empowered and able to seek out information and communicate with their healthcare team as an equal partner. Most who fall within this group demonstrate capacity and the desire to be involved in their decisions and they must be supported in their self-advocacy.

The movement grows outward from the personal to the community, with the development of mechanisms and channels that allow like-minded individuals to connect with and support each other.

Groups of individuals connect with a common cause and build power and influence, advocacy efforts can rise to the regional and national level, uniting and fortifying the efforts of family, community and societal members interested in change⁵.

Community health Advocacy Strategies

Advocacy initiates social powers of the organizations through public events that are intended and demonstrate that power. Greenpeace declares we use techniques studies, lobbying and quiet diplomacy to pursue our desires in addition to peaceful conflict to raise the level and exceptional of public debate multiple strategies can explain the following⁹.

Media advocacy

To advocate a health related issues, it requires the identification of the issue and concern related to the community wellbeing.

Using the courts

The court system provides advocacy effort. The method of submitting a lawsuit differs throughout countries the system is used in international as well as national exemplified by the following situations.

Legislative and regulatory advocacy

Strategies used by organization seeking to have their voices heard. The specific procedures vary depending upon the legal jurisdiction.

Using coalitions

Coalitions are agencies of companies with a shared purpose and a few cognizance that united we stand, divided we fall. It consist of groups of community members, groups of organizations or both it must be a shared vision and mission that is clear to all of the participant.

CHALLENGES OF COMMUNITY HEALTH ADVOCACY

Community health advocacy helps people feel more enabled to take control of their own lives and provides practical support to overcome health and social care issues. This approach equips people with the knowledge and skills to be their own best Advocate⁵.

Support to access statutory advocacy

Statutory advocacy is advocacy that is required by law, i.e. A person who is being handled under the Mental Health Act can be legally entitled to the support of an Independent Advocate.

Support for those who do not meet Care Act criteria

Care Assessment or Review advocacy can support who do not meet health assessment criteria.

Health and Social Care Complaints

Self-help guides or support from an Independent Advocate in raising the complaint.

Mental Health Support

It access mental health care services to feel more confident. To voice mental health views.

Access to a Healthcare Professional or Social Services

To visit a community need to access/deal with social services.

Concerns with a care provider

Advocacy can help concerns or challenge decisions. It is one of the self-help tools can help know complaints and find out solution.

Medication and Consent

An Advocate can help to communicate needs and wishes.

Powers of Attorney

A Lasting Power of Attorney is a legal document. It is important to think about in ill health.

Advanced Decisions / Future Planning: Advocacy can help to communicate decisions and future plans before time comes. There are numerous ways advocacy can support, depending on peoples need and circumstances³.

Community Health Advocacy Programs

Advocacy is the act of providing assistance to others. Advocacy groups perform a vital function in the community, promoting the rights of people within

the community with a diverse range of interests. Advocacy groups are often structured as nonprofit or not-for-profit entities and their funding is typically sourced from government grants, membership fees and from private donations³. The following examples of advocacy groups demonstrate community health advocacy programs.

The Intellectual Disability Rights Service (IDRS)

Advocacy application includes assisting provider vendors, people and the network to better understand the wishes of human beings with mental disability and to promote and admire their rights. It works to exercise and advance the rights of people with intellectual disabilities by providing legal support; advocating for improvements to laws and policies affecting them; providing assistance to support workers with intellectual disability and providing information to service providers and the community about the rights and needs of people with intellectual disability.

The National Parks Association of NSW (NPA)

NPA aims to protect nature through community action with programs to engage the community with sciences to promote a greater appreciation for the cost of natural areas. NPA campaigns for the safety of natural regions as new countrywide parks and marine sanctuaries. They contribute advocacy paintings for countrywide parks. It engages members of parliament to encourage the upholding of laws that protect national parks and help to contest the weakening of laws that protect national parks.

CAWS - Citizen Advocacy Western Sydney

CAWS - Citizen Advocacy Western Sydney: CAWS is a not-for-earnings network primarily based organization in Western Sydney, engaging network advocacy programs that cope with the pressing needs of people with a disability including assistance to their families and careers. In simple terms, it helps people living with disabilities access health care and other services.

Can Act - Cancer Council NSW

The Can Act network has successfully encouraged for successive governments to enact legal guidelines that protect the community from recognized reasons of most cancers. Can Act have built a network of over 25,000 net work advocates, contributors who

take part in packages to interact with media and government.

The Western Sydney Community Legal Centre (WSCLC) is a non-profit community advocacy organisation. Their mission is to deliver legal services and support to disadvantaged people in the community who may not have equitable access to the legal system. The Centre is managed through a volunteer management committee which includes neighborhood citizens and employees with an hobby in community justice. They supply packages addressing diverse regions of regulation, which include Family Law, Domestic Violence, Employment Law, Wills, Motor Vehicle Accidents, Neighborhood Disputes and Consumer Credit. They carry out legal representation responsibilities on a case-by using-case basis.

The Inner Sydney Tenants' Advice and Advocacy Service

(ISTAAS) is a program of the Red fern Legal Centre that provides free, confidential legal information, advice and advocacy to tenants living in public and private residential housing. Their services are available to renter in the City of Sydney, Botany Bay and Leichardt local government areas¹⁰.

EVALUATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH ADVOCACY

The evaluation of the advocacy motion and the conflicts which can bring about the relation between advocacy and ethics. The authors emphasize the importance of comparing the advocacy actions, to improve other activities within the future. People examine through their successes and disasters.

The formative evaluation is conducted at the beginning of a programme and focus on research that must be done to develop the programme evaluation.

The outcome evaluation focuses on an examination of the value of the programme. An impact evaluation focuses on an examination of whether long term changes has resulted from the programme.

Finally, community health advocacy must act to secure health rights supporting people in building their own history. The main ethics consideration related to health advocacy is to respect people's problems and solutions⁸.

CONCLUSION

This article has provided review of many concepts involved in conducting community health advocacy and illustration of community health advocacy by various groups, organizations in an international context. Trends in advocacy, Approaches, strategies, Challenges, health programme have been identified as well as evaluation methods. It is clear that successful community health advocacy requires persistence, dedication and a long term vision and monies to effectuate change.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

We declare that we have no conflict of interest.

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