

Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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Submitting author: Mr Chung Chun Bon

Post title: Assistant Social Work Officer, QEH, KCC

Engaging, motivating and developing youth volunteers in Hospital Service (Summer Youth Volunteer Program, RIGHT Scheme in Queen Elizabeth Hospital)

Chung CB(1), Wong WY(2), Tang CSJ(1), Sun PYC(1), Hung YKS(2), Liu YWE(2)

(1) Patient Resource Centre, Queen Elizabeth Hospital (2) Central Nursing Division, Queen Elizabeth Hospital

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<u>Introduction</u>

QEH Patient Resource Centre organized summer volunteer program for youth every year. The Summer Youth Volunteer Program is an 8 weeks program for students age 15 or above. While volunteering is a fun and very rewarding experience, it is also a very serious commitment. The program is interactive, consist of hands-on 21st century leadership training and essential life skills as part of their volunteer experience. It provided them an opportunity to learn about the hospital, help the community and discover their own interests in the health care field.

Objectives

To enhance their skills on communication and leadership

To have better understanding of hospital environment and works of different health care disciplines

To promote healthy lifestyle and personal growth for youth with the following elements: Responsibility, interpersonal communication, growth, health knowledge and teamwork (i.e. R.I.G.H.T Scheme)

Methodology

Program Design:

10 workshops and 7 Department visits were arranged on top of assigned volunteer work at different departments in hospital. In addition, a mass program (PRC Open day) was launched with the joint effort of all youth volunteers. To integrate their learning experience, there was a project presentation by groups to share with their team members. Upon completion of the program, they were awarded with a certificate to recognize their contribution and completion of training.

Result

We have total 70 students enrolled in this project. Most volunteers said that the personal fulfillment which came from helping patients is their greatest reward. Other volunteers look forward to the new friendship and camaraderie they share with fellow

volunteer and our staff. Many enjoy learning new skills and contributing to the community. From performed comfort rounding, visit with patients, assisted and supported our staff as needed. Volunteer shared their time and talents in different program during their stay in PRC. Over 95% of participants agreed the workshops and visits provided them opportunity to understand different job nature of healthcare professionals in hospital. Besides, the Personality Dimensions Workshops and various health talks enhanced their understandings on own self and empower their health knowledge. The results shed light on the benefit of personal growth and enriching experience on youth volunteers and explore the motivating factors for joining the volunteer work in hospital.