A Pilot Narrative Therapy Approach Student Summer Volunteer Program – Sunshine Angels Scheme

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Introduction
Tuen Mun Hospital Community Services Centre initiates a pilot life-education-based Student Summer Volunteers Project “不一樣的暑假天:學生暑期義工服務計劃” in Summer 2012. Student volunteers can be enriched with realistic exposure to patients from childhood to end-of-life in hospital setting. 49 student volunteers (badge 1&2) were recruited. The program provides opportunity for students who have shown interest in further their study in healthcare related field to directly deal with patient in both acute and rehabilitation hospital setting.

Objectives
1. To facilitate the collaboration and partnership between secondary schools and TMH
2. To enlarge the scope and pool of volunteers
3. To render voluntary services to department for conducting ad-hoc project
4. To enhance understanding on the duty and working environment of health care and allied health professions in TMH
5. To render direct patient volunteer services to TMH service recipients for realistic understanding on health care related professions in hospital setting
6. To equip with the concept of “Empathetic Understanding on Direct Patient Service” for potential health care related professionals

Methodology
1. To liaise with various TMH departments on collaboration of the pilot volunteer scheme
2. To recruit student volunteers from graduates of DSE, AL, local senior form students (F.4 to F.5) and oversee student
3. To conduct volunteer training sessions tailor-made for student volunteers
4. To conduct various direct patient volunteer services with 11 TMH departments (clinical and allied health departments) using
narrative therapy approach 5. To establish mentorship scheme for graduate volunteer of badge 1 to badge 2 volunteers

**Result**
Total 49 summer student volunteers were trained as Sunshine Angels (陽光天使) after undergoing intensive and tailor-made training sessions (28 hours). Total 3860 voluntary services hours and 5800 patient attendance were recorded from 7.5.12 to 17.8.12 from direct patient volunteer services of ward visits, patient program, conducting survey (face-to-face and telephone interview) and data analysis presentation to departments, writing stories for chronic illness patients, and organ donation program (210 organ donation card collected). Overall evaluation result of the program reviewed that they were very satisfied with the program. Also, the aim of deepening their understanding on the duty of the health care professions in hospital settings was achieved. Seven out of 12 DSE student volunteers further their study in health care related subjects. Among all the registered volunteers, 100% of them keep on providing services in TMH. The program which emphasize on direct patient service with no supporting / clerical duty provide a golden opportunity for the youngsters in understanding the hospital setting and the duty of various health care professionals. It ultimately deepened their understanding towards themselves. The program also creates a love, tender and caring energetic environment in the hospital.