

NELS-ICE Pilot Project 4:

Assessing the Knowledge of African Canadians Living in
Nova Scotia Regarding Options Available for Palliative
and End of Life Care

Using Participatory Action Research: A Pilot Project.

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Health Association of African Canadians
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Pilot Project Objective

- To learn more about knowledge, beliefs and understandings of options and services to support individuals and families at end of life in the Black community;
- to provide information about services available to support and facilitate culturally competent end of life care;
- to develop knowledge translation strategies to communicate research findings to the community and to policy makers in the health and social service sectors....

Method/Approach

- Partnership with Health Association of African Canadians
- Digby, Halifax (Cornwallis Street and Hammonds Plains), Sydney (Whitney Pier)
- 2 groups of 6 caregivers per community (one through AUBA church and one through other social networks)

Method/Approach

Focus Groups

Phase One: Learning from the Community.

- Discuss prevalent understandings, beliefs and practices related to end of life in the Black community;

Phase Two: Education Session on Services and Support for End-of-Life Care

An education and information session will be provided outlining available health and social services to support families caring for a loved one at end of life;

Phase Three: Giving Back to the Community: Making Change, Identifying Next Steps and Knowledge Translation

- Assess merits of services offered
- Explore ways to develop supports to facilitate culturally competent end of life care in the Black community;
- Discuss ways to disseminate knowledge among Black communities and policy makers to initiate dialogue and change.

Progress to Date

- Ethics Approval CH and Yarmouth (CB pending)
- Developing education package for Phase II Focus Groups
- Recruitment of community facilitators
- First site: Digby (meeting with AUBA Pastor, recruitment of participants)

Next Steps

- CB DHA Ethics Approval
- Completion of Education Presentations (Phase II for CH and CB)
- Initiate project in Halifax sites and CB
- Anticipate completion of project in Fall/winter 2007.