

OUT OF THE SPOTLIGHT: NEGLECTED ISSUES IN THE OLD-AGE POLICY ARENA

R. Binstock, Case Western Reserve University, School of Medicine, Room WG-43, 10900 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, OH, 44106, rhb3@po.cwru.edu.

PARTICIPANTS:

J. Gonyea (Boston University School of Social Work, Boston, MA). The Family and Medical Leave Act: Much Ado About a Little, or Little Ado About A Lot?.

J. Pynoos (Andrus Gerontology Center, Los Angeles, CA). Housing and Home Modifications: Moving Up From the Policy Backburner.

G. Paveza (University of South Florida, Tampa, FL), R. Binstock (Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH). What About the Aged Poor? Saving the People Who Aren't Saved by the Programs.

DISCUSSANTS:

R. Hudson (Boston University School of Social Work, Boston, MA).

Policy issues concerning the present and future of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid are of major importance, and have been very much in the political spotlight in recent years and will probably remain so. But neglected in the shadows are other policy issue areas of considerable significance to a great number of elderly persons and their families. This symposium focuses attention on and analyzes four such neglected policy issue areas: the adequacy of the ten-year-old Family and Medical Leave Act; opportunities in home modifications to facilitate independent living, largely disregarded in housing policy; health care policy issues related to elder neglect and abuse; and the plight of the poorest older persons, and the income maintenance policies and politics that would help them.

STAFF TRAINING AND QUALITY OF CARE: NURSING HOMES

CHAIR(S):

S. Houde, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Department of Nursing, 3 Solomont Way, Suite 2, Lowell, MA, 01854.

QUALITY OF CARE AND NURSE AIDE PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING ABOUT RESIDENT CARE

K. Corazzini-Gomez, R. Anderson, Duke University School of Nursing, Durham, NC, R. McDaniel, Jr., College of Business, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.

While previous research suggests increased nurse aide (NA) participation in decision-making about resident care (NA-PDM) decreases NA turnover, differences in perceptions of

NA-PDM among NAs and their direct supervisors and the effects of these differences on quality of care, have not been examined. LVNs and NAs (N=2962) in 164 Texas facilities assessed NA-PDM. Analysis of variance indicate perceptions of NA-PDM significantly differ ($p<.01$) by position. Linear regression models of resident restraint use on NA-PDM, suggests NA-PDM relates to care quality, controlling for facility case-mix: NA perceptions of higher NA-PDM significantly relate to greater facility restraint use ($p<.05$). However, facilities where NAs' perceptions of NA-PDM are higher than LVN perceptions of NA-PDM, have lower levels of resident restraint use, relative to facilities where NAs and LVNs either share perceptions of NA-PDM, or NAs report lower levels of NA-PDM than LVNs ($p<.01$). Results are discussed in the context of NA management practices.

NURSING ASSISTANTS IN NURSING HOMES: PREVENTION SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND SELF-EFFICACY IN MANAGING VIOLENT RESIDENT BEHAVIORS

E. Fitzwater, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, D. Gates, University of Cincinnati College of Nursing, Cincinnati, OH.

Nursing Assistants (NA) working in nursing homes experience the greatest incidence of workplace assaults of all workers. Aims were to (1) describe NA's experiences with workplace assaults, (2) measure NA's skills in preventing assaults from residents, and (3) to describe NA's perceptions of their knowledge and confidence to prevent assaults from residents. Data are part of a large intervention study aimed at reducing violence against NAs in nursing homes. Results for NAs (N=138) in six nursing homes include fifty-nine percent of NAs assaulted at least once per week; 16%, daily. NAs demonstrated a major lack of skills to prevent and manage resident assaultive behavior. NAs reported serious deficits in knowledge and confidence in their ability to keep residents from becoming agitated and to decrease resident agitation and aggression. Findings indicate need for training in violence prevention and management to enhance both NA safety and ability to provide resident care.

RESEARCH METHODS AND ISSUES

CHAIR(S):

S. Reynolds, University of South Florida, Gerontology Department, 4202 E. Fowler Ave., SOC 107, Tampa, FL, 33620-8100.

CONSUMER FEEDBACK METHODOLOGY WITH FRAIL, LOW INCOME OLDER ADULTS: ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES

L. Curry, M. Porter, C. Gruman, Braceland Center for Mental Health and Aging, Hartford, CT.

There are significant questions and limited empirical data regarding optimal techniques for gathering feedback from

No cover
image
available

Volume 42, Issue

Special_Issue_1

1 October 2002

Abstracts: The Gerontological Society of America 55th Annual Scientific Meeting November 22–26, 2002 Boston, MA

The Gerontologist, Volume 42, Issue Special_Issue_1, 1 October 2002, Pages 1–418,

https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/42.Special_Issue_1.1

Published: 01 October 2002

 Split View

 Cite

 Permissions

 Share ▾