

TITLE: Social Work Involvement at the End of Life in Long-Term Care

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PROJECT ABSTRACT:

Despite growing numbers of older adults living and dying in long-term care, little is known about social work involvement at the end of life for these vulnerable elders. This study, funded by the John A. Hartford Faculty Scholars program, has been designed to address issues that emerged in Dr. Munn's dissertation, *Defining a Good Death for Residents in Long-Term Care*. Specifically the dissertation work identified an absence of social work involvement or generally negative comments regarding social workers in these settings. However, social workers were not the subject of that study. In response, the current study incorporates mixed methods, builds upon dissertation findings, and focuses on social workers and their involvement during this crucial time. The qualitative portion of the proposed project (completed) comprised three focus groups consisting of long-term care social workers who are associated with facilities included in the dissertation sample. The purpose of these groups was two-fold: 1) to compare findings with earlier focus groups held with residents, family and staff; and 2) to gain the social workers' perspectives on their roles at the end of life, supportive factors that enable them to fulfill those roles, and potential barriers to social work involvement. Focus group findings have been disseminated in a journal article: Munn, J., & Adorno, G. (2008). By invitation only: Social work involvement at the end of life in long-term care. *Journal of Social Work and End-of-Life and Palliative Care*, 4(4), 333-357.

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Community Collaborators:

None
