A Case for Interprofessional Collaboration if Ever There Was One!

A Panel Discussion

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Moderator
A Case for Interprofessional Collaboration if Ever There Was One! A Panel Discussion

SESSION OBJECTIVES

Participants will be able to:

0 Evaluate how collaboration among disciplines provides a comprehensive assessment
0 Describe the importance of interprofessional collaboration
0 Identify different discipline expertise that may be used in providing care for the elderly
Interprofessional Panel

0Jessica Haskins, PharmD

0Maria Wellisch, RN, LNFA

0David Flores, PhD, LMSW, MPH, CPH

0Sarah Dirks, DDS
Panelists were sent some information on an actual geriatric APS case to review from their professional perspective.

They were asked to submit 3–4 questions that would help them better assess the case.

They have not been given any more...
The Case

Based on a true story!

This is the info that the Experts were given
Frank is an 83 year old cancer survivor who has type 2 Diabetes, HBP, and is an amputee confined to a wheelchair. His left leg was amputated at the hip due to cancer. In June 2012, Frank was hospitalized for gangrene and lost two toes making his mobility on crutches almost impossible. Frank is also a recovered alcoholic (15 years—self-reported) with a history of violent temper outbursts. He lives with his youngest daughter, Ella who is his sole caregiver now.

Kay, his older daughter who lives in Texas, worries that he
Ella, a 50 year old, who does not work outside the home and has lived with her parents for the last 15 years, complains to her half sister, Kay that she is at the “end of her rope” caring for their dad and that she cannot “take it anymore”.

Ella has an arrest record for drugs and for shooting and wounding her ex-husband ten years ago. She complains to Kay that they are having financial problems as a result of her mom leaving them with “thousands of dollars in credit card debt and no life insurance” upon her death. Ella inherited the trailer and 30 acres of farmland from her mother. She has been calling Kay monthly asking for money for their father’s
Cody

Often when Kay calls her dad, the half sister’s friends are usually over and even answer the phone. Frank tells Kay that Cody, a 29 year old unemployed man has been living with them for the past month. He also reveals to her that Cody stole some of his gun collection and pawned it, but it was never reported to the police.

Frank gets social security as well as a pension from the paper mill where he worked.
Kay is the older daughter who lives in Texas. She called Haywood County North Carolina APS about concerns for her elderly father, Frank in November 2012. He had complained of not being able to get his wheelchair into the bathroom in the trailer house where he lived. Evidently, the plumbing in his master bathroom was broken and the other hall bathroom door was too narrow for his wheelchair.
Frank’s Home
APS Visit #1:

0 The APS team made a visit to the trailer house. When asked, Frank did not want to leave and go to a nursing home. APS found him to have mental capacity.

0 Ella cried and begged the APS person “please don’t take my dad away!!!”

0 The APS person told Kay that the house was “not what you or I would want to live in, but I have seen worse”. She advised Kay not to send any more cash to help out but to pay a bill or buy clothes for her dad, etc.

0 APS told Kay that they would give papers to Ella
In the following 2 months, Kay followed up with APS and also with Ella.

Ella said that she submitted the papers but APS reported that she never completed them.

APS stated that they had done all they could do since Frank was happy living where he was.
Let’s Hear From the Experts
Before we find out how this turned out …

Let’s consult our experts on what they would have done.
I asked each expert to submit questions they would have asked to assess Frank’s situation.
1. Would it be possible for APS to require a thorough medical evaluation and assessment of Frank to include:
   - is he taking prescribed medications?
   - does he maintain regular follow-ups with his doctor?
   - who has medical power of attorney?
   - current substance abuse?
   - mental health examination – depression, dementia, etc.

2. Can APS conduct a financial investigation to determine how Frank's income is being spent and who has access to his money?

3. Was Frank interviewed/questioned by APS privately; was he allowed to speak with APS representatives without his daughter present?

4. Does APS have the ability to follow up regarding Medicaid
1. Does anyone have power of attorney for Frank?

2. Does the physician who prescribes the medication verify the medication is lasting as intended? Do they receive early refill requests from the patient, the caregiver, or the pharmacy?

3. What does Ella state the Social Security and retirement income are going towards if not
1. Even though the client appears to have mental capacity, does the client appreciate the decline in his ability to live independently due to his environment and ability to care for himself? Is the client taking appropriate steps to allow himself to remain living independently?

2. What are some other means of intervening that would keep the client safe from exploitation and allow him to remain living independently in the community?

3. What other services are available in the community to help the client remain living independently i.e., provider services, meals on wheels, etc?

4. Under what circumstances do you believe APS should file for guardianship with the courts to have the client placed in a safe, clean, well-maintained facility? Keep in mind the client will lose
Given that there are several “other” urgent issues to deal with first, how would the other disciplines recognize when a dental consultation is also “urgent”? Who would be the “go to” professional of choice and/or how do I determine the “go to” professional who is managing Frank’s medical care because Frank is not able to manage his medical care on his own? In other words, who is Frank’s “service coordinator”? What options does Frank have for transportation to receive medically necessary dental services? Is Frank and/or his daughter – Kay, aware of the dental services available to him in his community?
The Rest of the Story
About one year later…

A little over a year later Frank called Kay and told her that he had found two of his front teeth laying on the floor in the kitchen. He did not recall any bleeding or pain or anything related to losing them.

Also during this call, Ella asked for some money to buy oil. The temp was going to be below zero and they would be without heat. Kay bought a tank of oil the next day (Monday) by phone. She also called APS for them to check on her dad.

When Kay called APS, they told her that someone else had also called concerned about Frank and that APS
APS Visited a second time. They reported to Kay that Ella had been arrested for drug use and distribution out of the home (meth and others). And, that Ella most likely would get significant jail time.

Frank was taken to a rehabilitative nursing home.

An examination found that his blood pressure and diabetes prescriptions had not been filled in 4 months, that he was malnourished and he had not been bathed in at least 3 months.
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Update on Frank

Frank is living in the retirement home that just happens to be on the very same street where he grew up. He often wheels his chair up to a park across from his childhood home and to church. He joined a church two weeks ago rides his wheelchair there twice a week.

He enjoys talking to all the folks who live in the home and says they feed him three times a day!

He tells Kay that he is concerned about how Ella will make it financially since she does not work!!!! He complains about not having spending
Update on Ella

Cody took the “rap” for the drug dealing and is currently in jail.

While Ella was in jail, Cody stripped the trailer and sold everything in it including the appliances.

Turns out that Ella had sold the 30 acres to her aunt for $50K right after her mother died in 2012.

But she is now homeless and lives with various friends.
Wrap UP

What do you think?