

We're not a hindrance; we're an enhancement": Community organization perspectives on barriers and facilitators to Advance Care Planning in BC .

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Advance Care Planning (ACP) is a process through which adults understand and share their personal values, life goals, and preferences regarding future medical care. The perspectives of community-based non-profit organisations on Advance Care Planning barriers and facilitators had not been studied, despite these organisations' provision of targeted, low-cost ACP resources. Understanding these perspectives is a valuable addition to current knowledge of ACP education.

Intervention:

We used a mixed-methods approach of online surveys and telephone interviews, asking participants to rank lists of barriers and facilitators to ACP engagement. Participants were staff and volunteers at BC community-based non-profits supporting seniors or those affected by serious illness, and were providing or interested in providing ACP education to the public.

Results:

The highest ranked barriers were: lack of public awareness or knowledge; emotional difficulty; and belief that ACP is synonymous with Do-Not-Resuscitate Designations. The highest ranked facilitators were: developing clear messages; improving ACP literacy (public and healthcare providers); reframing ACP as part of life planning; and simplifying documentation and transfer. We found a novel barrier - participants wish to collaborate with the healthcare system and providers, but described various issues doing so.

Discussion:

Many community-based organisations are eager to improve public awareness and uptake of ACP, maximizing impact by partnering with health authorities and others. To maximize their effectiveness, organizations identified the need for clear, simple, consistent and accessible ACP messaging, resources, conversation, and documentation across the province.

Community-based non-profits place a vital role in public Advance Care Planning (ACP) education, but their perspectives are often excluded from research in this area. We surveyed and interviewed B.C. non-profits involved in ACP to explore what they felt to be the biggest barriers and facilitators to ACP.