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Mercy Doula
VOLUNTEER TRAINING PROGRAM
a Greek word meaning
To Accompany and Comfort

Session 1: March 13th and 20th, 2019
8:00am to 4:30pm

The Spiritual Care Department
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center
Elm & Carlton Streets
Buffalo, NY 14263

Mercy Doula TRAINING PROGRAM

WHAT IT IS: DOULA is derived from a Greek word meaning to accompany and comfort. This is a volunteer program aimed to lessen a seriously ill person's sense of isolation.

PURPOSE: To recruit, train encourage and provide resources for women and men who are willing to become "Doulas (one who accompanies and comforts), for individuals who are terminally ill and have few or no one to accompany them on their journey to a new life. A Doula Program will begin at Roswell Park after this training program and we are inviting you to be a part of this program. Also, Doulas will be needed to volunteer at a comfort care home in the community. Accountable Health Community, Inc. strives to build the first Comfort Care House in Erie County. This not-for-profit, community based house will be committed to providing a peaceful home-like setting for terminally-ill residents and their families. Inspired by the selfless example of Mother Teresa, these homes provide a familiar and warm, atmosphere where the terminally ill may find comfort in the love of those who serve them. The care offered is personal, pastoral and medical.

WHO IT HELPS: The presence of the Doula makes a significant difference to those seriously ill persons who have limited networks of family and friends. Each day in our community, there are elderly individuals who have outlived all or mostly all their family members and friends. Often their only contact is with the health care and service providers. They need a friend, one who will be with ("accompany") them until they move into a "new life".

WHO ARE THE VOLUNTEERS: Medical students, health professionals, chaplains, interfaith ministry volunteers and community members provide emotional, spiritual and social support; comfort and companionship; practical assistance and advocacy.

BENEFITS: The Doula Program is deeply sensitive in the art of listening and discerning the spiritual and

social need of the one he/she companions. The Doula can advocate appropriately for the patient, remaining friend and companion, not taking or lessening the person's rights or authority. The Doula enables the person to move peacefully from this life to whatever her/his faith holds in hope. Throughout this process, the Doula is confronted with his/her own mortality and his/her own process of letting go.

The terminally ill person acquires a friend, a relationship with a person whose only purpose is to know and be with her/him in a confidential and caring way. Casual, humorous, serious and spiritual situations and conversations bring enjoyment, meaning and peace to an otherwise potentially lonely and anxious period of life.

The fidelity of the Doula does not depend on the medical condition of the person. For example, if the person is in a coma or unable to speak the Doula still comes, to be there, to be with. The fidelity of the Doula depends on his/her commitment and belief in his/her blessing presence and role as a companion.

TRAINERS/FACILITATORS:

Kathleen Grimm, MD & Sandra Lauer, RN
Board Members of the Accountable Health Community, Inc

Program Dates

March 13th and March 20th, 2019

PROGRAM TOPICS

DAY 1 Introduction
Process of Dying
Advance Care Planning and Advance Directives

DAY 2 Cultural Awareness Active Listening
Spiritual/Faith Legacy Work
Communication Vigil Plan

PROGRAM TIME:

8:00 AM Registration and Breakfast
12:00 PM Lunch
4:30 PM Conclusion

PROGRAM LOCATION

DAY 1 Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center
Research Studies Center Building
Gaylord Cary Meeting Rooms
Elm and Carlton streets
Buffalo, NY 14263

DAY 2 Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center
Scott Bieler Clinical Science Center Building
Room 701

REGISTRATION FORM & INFORMATION

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT AND/OR VOLUNTEER AGENCY

REGISTRATION FEE: Complementary. Registration includes, breakfast, breaks, lunch, parking and materials.

PLEASE SEND REGISTRATION FORM BY MARCH 1, 2019 TO:

Beth Lenegan, PhD
Department of Spiritual Care
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center
Elm and Carlton Streets
Buffalo, NY 14263

For information, please call
Department of Spiritual Care at (716)845-8051