Advanced Care Planning

Purpose

To outline the parameters of ASC's involvement in supporting clients to express their wishes through Advanced Care Planning.

Policy Statement

ASC is committed to serving clients as long as possible during their life span. It is an important part of service to know and understand what their wishes are in relation to advanced care planning; the goals of medical treatment and the continuation or discontinuation of such treatment and care.

ASC will not advise clients/guardians on the decisions they should make. ASC will support clients/guardians to get information and access people and processes necessary to make their own decisions.

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Advanced Care Planning

Under the direction and coordination of an Area Coordinator, for clients that are without guardianship, ASC will:

- Upon service commencement and annually upon services renewal processes ASC provides information about what advanced care planning is in a format that is relevant to the client
- Support the client to gain an understanding about which areas of their life they may want to have their wishes known for advanced care planning
- Support the client to gain access to the appropriate people to have discussions with in regards to advanced care planning (i.e. Health Care professionals)
- Support the client as required to access the appropriate persons to complete the required documentation to make their wishes known (i.e. legal assistance)

Under the direction and coordination of an Area Coordinator, when guardianship is in place, ASC will:

- Provide general information about advanced care planning during the processes of service orientation and service renewal
- Encourage the Guardian(s) to have the client participate in their own advanced care planning to the greatest extent possible
- Support Guardians as requested to access the appropriate people to have discussions with in regards to advanced care planning
- Support Guardians as requested to access appropriate people to complete required documentation of their wishes

If advanced care plans are in place and provided, staff need to be aware of the plan and be able to locate it.

In the event of an emergency medical/health situation requiring 911, staff are to enact the emergency response and advise the responders of the existence of the advanced care plan, where possible providing the actual document, and follow the directions of the emergency responders.

In the event of a medical/health situation that does not require a 911 response, but does require staff to transport the client to a Hospital/Urgent Care Centre, the staff will advise the attending Health Care professional(s) of the existence of the advanced care plan, where possible providing the actual document, and follow directions of the Health Care professional(s).

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