



PPECC

Professionals With Personal Experience in Chronic Care

Background

Many health care professionals involved in aging and chronic care encounter the very problems they are trying to change when seeking care for themselves, their loved ones, or friends. One might expect that professionals would be adept in using the system they work in. If they are having serious problems with getting care for themselves and their families, the system is failing in major way. When these “professional consumers” are coping with their own chronic illnesses or those of family members, they experience the very insults of contemporary health care that form the agenda for health care reform. Proposed in response to his own encounter with the long-term care system, Robert L. Kane, MD, shares his rationale for creating such an organization - “Whenever I describe my own painful experiences in getting the long-term care system to work effectively for my mother’s care, people nod immediately and offer up their own war stories. This conversation has been repeated often enough to make me believe it time to use these experiences as a catalyst for changing our current health care system.”

What Will PPECC Do?

A first step is to put these issues on the public agenda and get people in power to acknowledge that the system is broken. Long-term care and chronic disease are not major items on the political agenda. They don’t have “traction.” The purpose of this new non-profit group will be to draw upon the unique credentials of professionals as both care recipients (either directly or indirectly) and subject matter experts to speed up the painfully slow changes many people have identified for aligning our medical system better with chronic illness care. The group will chronicle health professionals’ personal experiences with the health care system and use them to formulate policy proposals for improving the delivery of chronic illness care. Activities include lobbying, legislative testimony, white papers and meetings in conjunction with major professional conferences.

Who Can Join PPECC?

Anyone working in the fields associated with chronic disease and long-term care including, but not limited to, health care professionals, educators, researchers, professional association leaders, state and federal health and human service professionals and consumer advocates. As of April 2005, more than 600 professionals have joined this effort.

How Do I Contact PPECC?

You can find more about PPECC at www.ppecc.org. In addition, interested individuals can contact Robert L. Kane, MD, Minnesota Chair in Long-term Care and Aging, at kanex001@umn.edu or c/o University of Minnesota School of Public Health, MMC 197, Minneapolis, MN 55455. Phone: (612) 624-1185