

Progress in Disparities of People with Developmental Disabilities In Health Care

Angie Gonzales, RN, MN
Health Care Facilitator
Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region
Surrey Place

Aamir Khan, M.ADS, BCBA
Behaviour Facilitator
Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region
Surrey Place

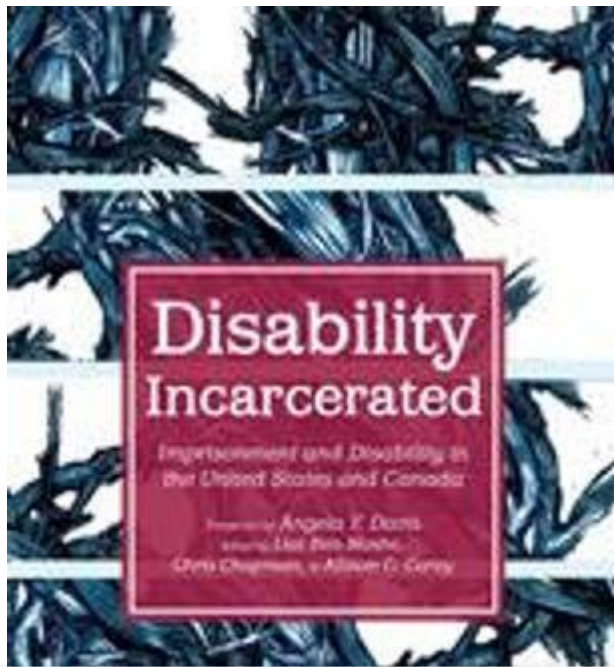
Open Dialogue, 22-March-2019



Presentation Outcomes



- ▶ Awareness of health disparities of developmental disabilities (DD) – past and present progress
- ▶ Recognition of impact of challenging behavior on health disparities
- ▶ Awareness of supportive approaches and resources



"In 35 years, you're my first case of this!"

Historical Context



- ▶ Most individuals with any level of DD lived and received their health care in Ontario's institutions prior to the 1970s
- ▶ Ontario's 3 remaining institutions serving people DD closed in 2009
- ▶ In the last 4 decades there's been gradual deinstitutionalization into the community
- ▶ Studies indicate positive outcomes for individuals with DD who transitioned from the remaining 3 Ontario institutions
- ▶ Living and aging in institutions was dramatically different than living and aging in the community

HCARDD



Health Care Access Research
and Developmental Disabilities

- ▶ “Previous work from H-CARDD has shown that Ontario adults with developmental disabilities have poorer physical and mental health and use more health care services than other adults...”

Atlas on the Primary Care of Adults with Developmental Disabilities in Ontario

December 2013



camh
Centre for Addiction and Mental Health



Balogh et al. (2013). Atlas on the Primary Care of Adults with Developmental Disabilities.

www.porticonetwork.ca/web/hcardd/program/atlas-on-primary-care

HCARDD



Health Care Access Research
and Developmental Disabilities

- ▶ “Previous work from H-CARDD has shown that Ontario adults with developmental disabilities have poorer physical and mental health and use more health care services than other adults...”

Addressing Gaps in the Health Care Services Used by Adults with Developmental Disabilities in Ontario

February 2019



camh

UNIVERSITY
OF ONTARIO
INSTITUTE OF THERAPEUTICS

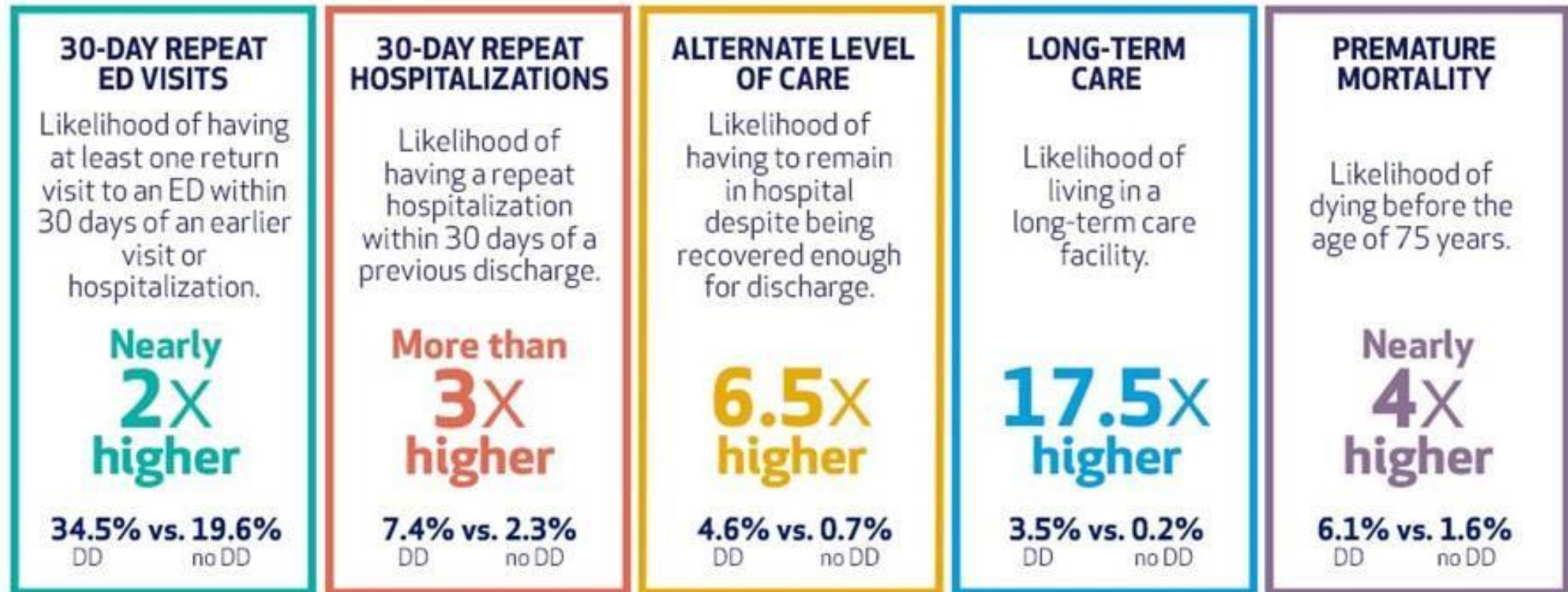


Lin et al. (2019). Addressing Gaps in the Health Care Services Used by Adults with Developmental Disabilities in Ontario.
<https://www.porticonetwork.ca/web/hcardd/projects/health-care-outcomes>

HCARDD



Health Care Access Research
and Developmental Disabilities



► <https://www.porticonetwork.ca/web/hcardd/projects/health-care-outcomes>

Developmental Disabilities in the ED

C Complexities & Comorbidities

Medical

- Epilepsy
- Vision impairments/ cataracts
- Dental complications and disease
- Hearing loss/ ear infections
- Cardiac disorders (CHD, MVP)
- Respiratory disorders



Psychosocial

- Stress caused by change of routine
- Stress caused by social or situational anxiety
- Change in behaviour caused by pain
- Change in behaviour caused by anxiety

Pain

- Dental
- Constipation
- MSK Spasticity
- Scoliosis



Health Care Access Research
and Developmental Disabilities

www.porticonetwork.ca/web/hcardd

HCARDD on Aging Population



- ▶ “As early as 50 years of age, adults with developmental disabilities show levels of frailty comparable to older adults without developmental disabilities (80 years and older)
- ▶ By, 2021, it is projected that the number of adults with developmental disabilities over the age of 64 will almost double what it was in 2009/2010.

Ouellette-Kuntz, H., Martin, L. (2014). Aging profiles of adults with and without developmental disabilities in Ontario. Prepared for Reena and the Seniors' Health Knowledge Exchange Network. Health Care Access Research and Developmental Disabilities (H-CARDD)

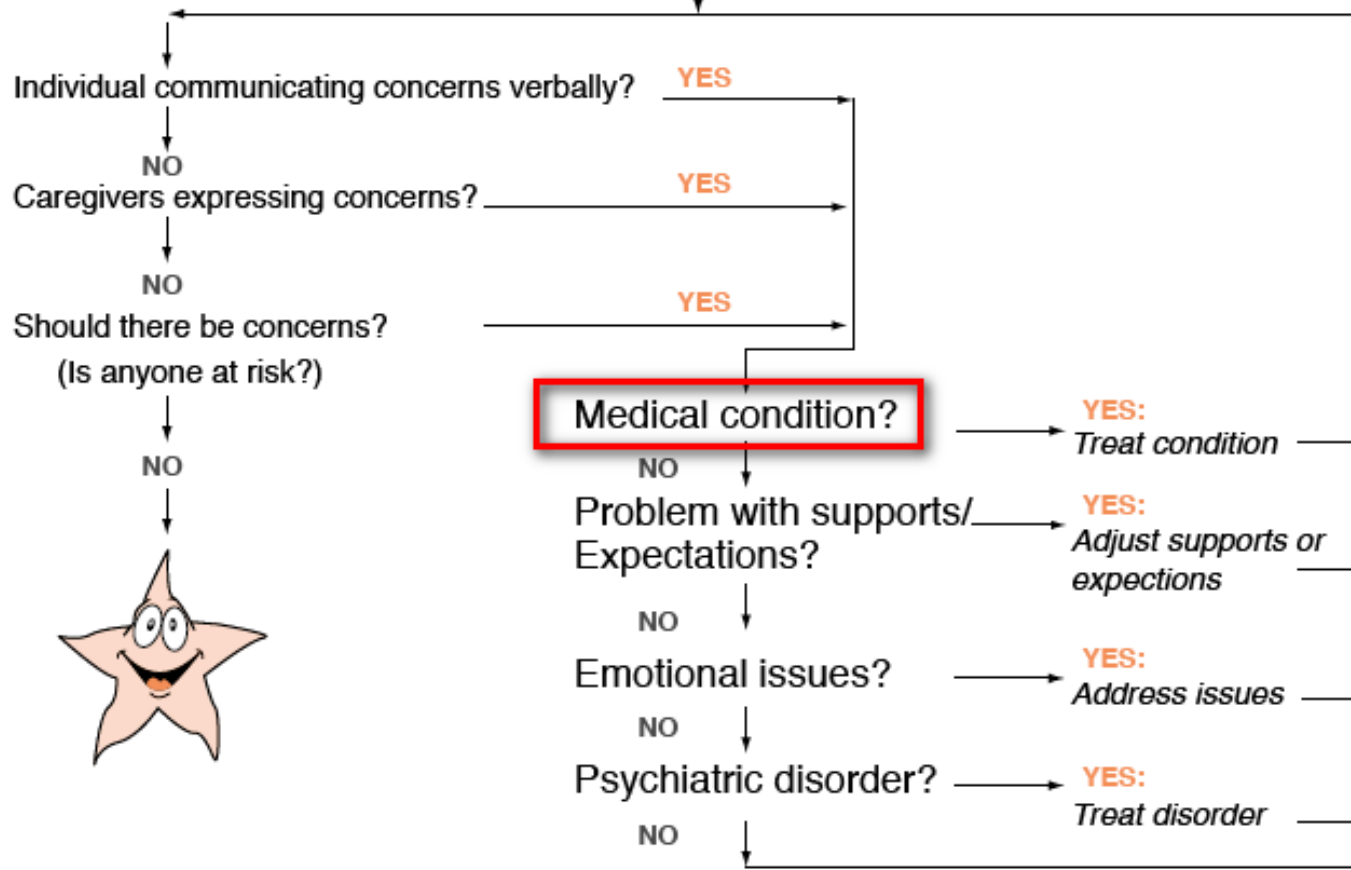
Behaviour = Communication



- ▶ Individuals with developmental disabilities have a wide range of communication skills
- ▶ Important to communicate as much as possible using gestures as well as words
- ▶ Behaviour may be related to challenges in communicating an unaddressed wish or concern or underlying physical health problem/illness
- ▶ Environment and surroundings have a major impact

DIAGNOSTIC FORMULATION OF BEHAVIOURAL CONCERNS

Patient brought to family physician with
escalating behavioural concerns

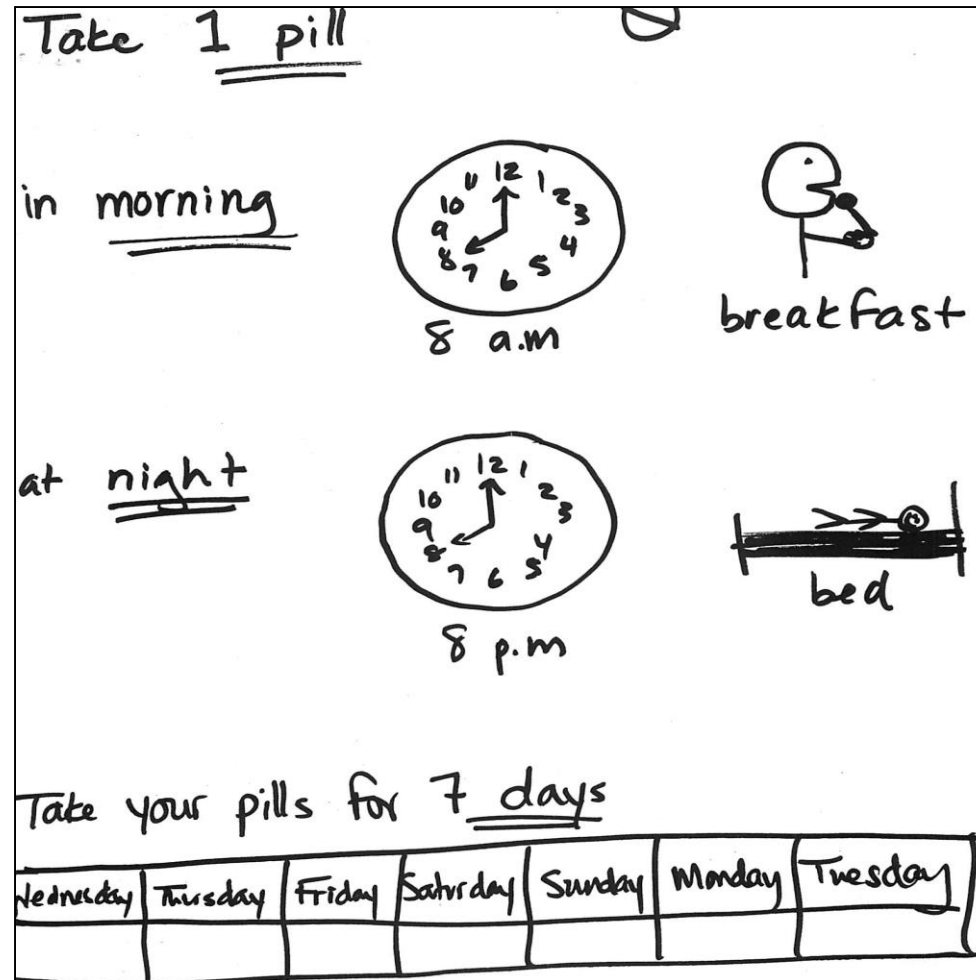


© Bradley & Summers 1999; modified in 2009

Visual Supports

► Examples of strategies:

- Visual Schedules
- Visuals for communication
 - E.g. visual pathway to a specific goal
- Reinforcement
 - E.g. what are healthy preferred items or activities that could be used to reinforce?



Crisis Tool

ddprimarycare.surreyplace.ca

Crisis Plan for: _____ DOB: _____ Date _____

Problem behaviour: _____

Stage of Patient Behaviour	Recommended Caregiver Responses
Normal, calm behaviour	Use positive approaches, encourage usual routines
Stage A: Prevention (Identify early warning signs that signal increasing stress or anxiety.)	Be supportive, modify environment to meet needs (Identify de-escalation strategies that are helpful for this patient with DD).
Stage B: Escalation (Identify signs of the patient with DD escalating to a possible behavioural crisis.)	Be directive (use verbal direction and modelling), continue to modify environment to meet needs, ensure safety
Stage C: Crisis (Risk of harm to self, others, or environment, or seriously disruptive behaviour, e.g., acting out.)	Use safety and crisis response strategies
Stage R: Post-crisis resolution and calming	Re-establish routines and re-establish rapport

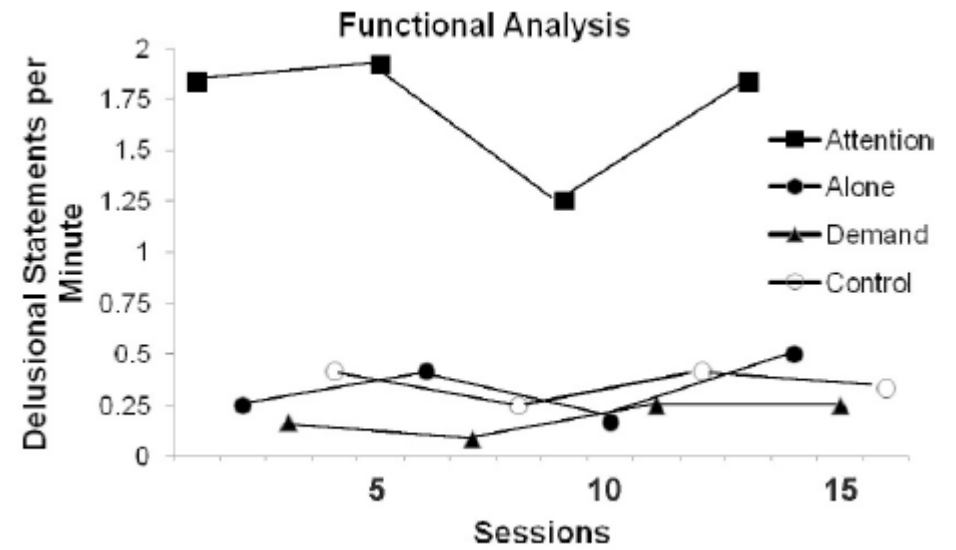
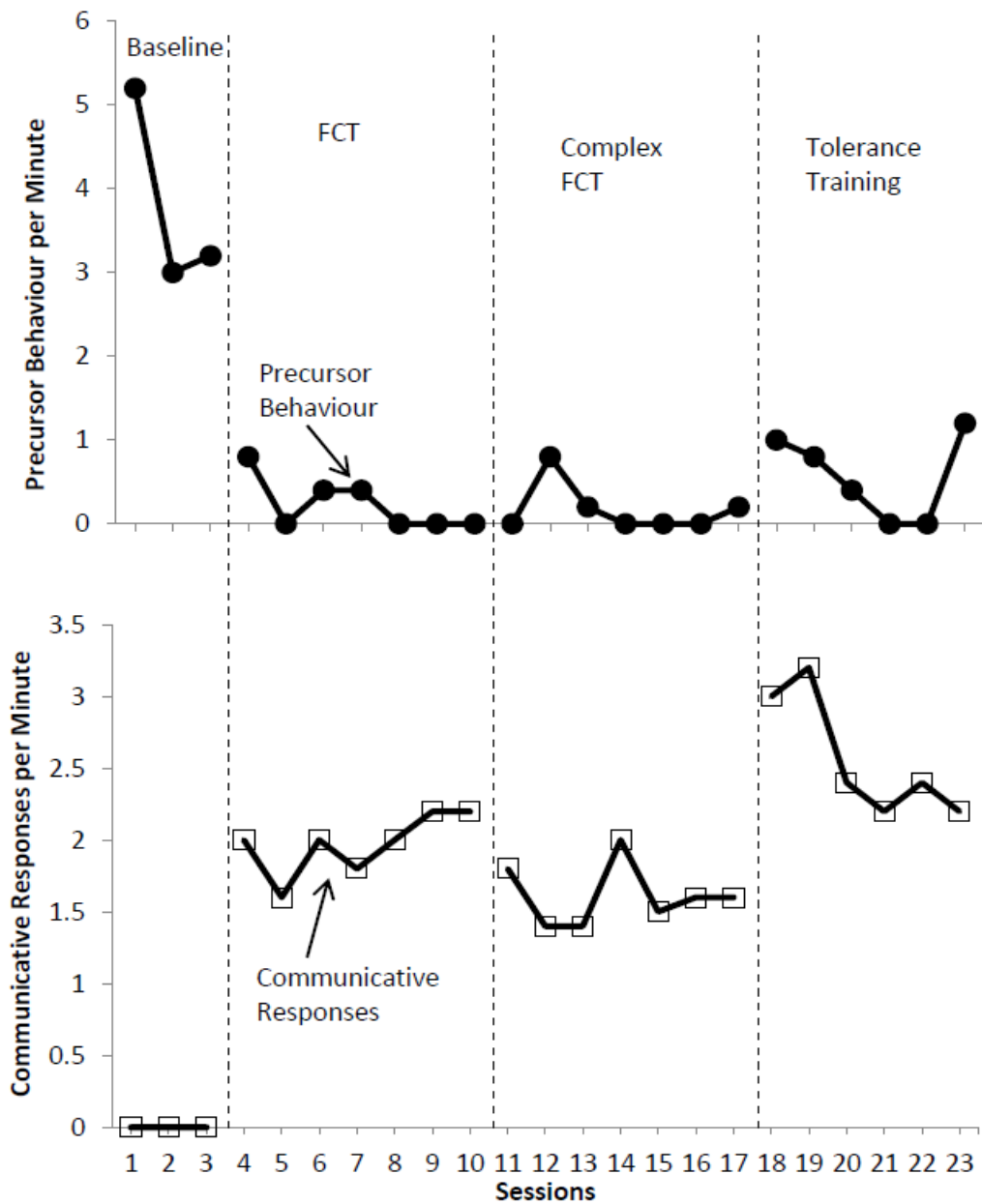
Individual responsible for coordinating debriefing after any significant crisis, and for regularly updating the Crisis Plan:

Name: _____ Tel. #: _____

Name, Designation, Agency

Why do people do that?

- ▶ It all happens for a reason
- ▶ What do you 'get' for behaving this way, what's the **function** or purpose?
- ▶ If behaviour results in a good outcome, it will strengthen motivation.
- ▶ A way to meet our needs or communicate
 - *"I feel sick"*
 - *"I'm trying to tell you something"*
 - *"leave me alone"*



***Figuring it all
out
systematically!***

Similar Supportive Approaches



<http://ddprimarycare.surreyplace.ca>

<https://www.porticonetwork.ca/web/hcardd>



See me,
understand me
and help me live
with respect
and dignity

Behavioural Supports Ontario

Discussion



Concluding Remarks & Contact Info

Thank You!

Angie Gonzales

Email: angela.gonzales@surreyplace.ca

Aamir Khan

Email: aamir.khan@surreyplace.ca

