A Case Study of Judy: Schizophrenia and a Terminal Illness

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Introduction

- A Terminal Diagnosis
- Two Colleagues Meeting: Mary I need your help.
  - Phone Call to American Cancer Society

Our Sacred Meeting

- Beautiful Brilliant Blue Eyes
- Candy Apple Sweater
- Long Gray Hair in a French Braid
Judy: One Woman’s Sacred Life Journey

Terminal Diagnosis
40 Year History of Schizophrenia

Online Random Inquiry

Does your agency provide end-of-life services to people with schizophrenia?
I conducted an informal survey on a major listserv and asked the members who were interested to take the survey.

The results were very confirming.

I conducted two studies interviewing end-of-life service directors from a variety of hospice agencies.

The results continued to reveal people with a terminal illness and a serious mental health condition were not being referred for palliative or end-of-life services.
Humanistic and Existential Approaches

- Collaborate with Mental Health Professionals
- Client Centered Approaches
- Advocating (A little lamb)
- Family Involvement or Support System (Oxygen)
- Process their life experiences with them

Common Myths About Schizophrenia and Other Severe Conditions

- can form meaningful relationships
- Have a full range of feelings and emotions
- Can process
- Want to talk about their life experiences
- Desire comfort, tenderness, reassurance, love, acceptance, eye contact, touch, a gentle arm around their shoulder.....just like we all want when we are faced with.....
Greater Awareness

How can we work together to ensure that people who experience schizophrenia or other severe mental health conditions are referred for palliative and hospice care?

Questions / Links

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See my video on Empathy!
www.phoenixrisinginstitute.org

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