**HEALTH ADVOCATES**

**HOLISTICALLY WEAVING TOGETHER STRATEGIES THAT ILLUMINATE THE PATH TOWARD BETTER PATIENT OUTCOMES.**

**PATIENT-CENTRIC ADVOCACY**

**Problem:** Complexities in medical terms, treatment options, & uncertainties increases medical errors and negatively impact mental health. 1,4,7

**Professional Advocates:**
- Empower patients and family with personalized Knowledge & counseling
- Effectively explain diagnosis/treatment plan
- Demystify jargon and fostering informed decision-making

**INTERPROFESSIONAL DISCORD**

**Problem:** Leads to lack of critical information being shared, miscommunication, misinterpretation, misunderstanding, poor job satisfaction. 3

**Professional Advocates:**
- Partner w/pharmacists, nurses, physicians, social workers, etc.
- Compose personalized treatment plans, address side effects, and optimize drug regimens.
- Encourage shared decision-making, with Patients
- Provide decision aids, discuss risks and benefits, and honor individual preferences.

**EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES**

**Problem:** Lower patient engagement and health literacy was associated with worse physical health and depression. 2

**Professional Advocates:**
- Never stop learning. Attend conferences, read research, and stay informed about breakthroughs.
- Sow seeds of knowledge into patient education sessions, workshops, and support groups.
- Simplify complex concepts

**FINANCIAL TOXICITY**

**Problem:** Financial burden can affect physical & emotional health, possibly leading to less successful Tx & negative effect on long-term health. 1

**Professional Advocates:**
- Connect patients with financial resources, copay assistance programs, and grants.
- By lifting the burden of financial stress, we empower patients to focus on healing.

**HEALTHCARE NAVIGATION**

**Problem:** Implicit biases, lack of coordination, poor patient-provider communication, lack of a holistic therapeutic approach, & limited consultation time etc. can lead to anxiety, stress, and other negative effects. 2,7,8

**Professional Advocates:**
- Streamline processes, ensuring timely access to specialists, imaging, and treatments.
- Become the bridge between patients and their multidisciplinary care teams.

**ADVOCATES BENEFITS**

**Problem:** Suboptimal understanding of the roles of Independent health advocates.

**Professional Advocates:**
- Patients adhere to treatments, ask questions, and regain hope. 4,6
- Ease the burden patients experience while navigating the healthcare system. 4,5,9
- Improve patient outcomes. 4,6,9
- Facilitate communications and trust. 4,5,6
- Enables informed decision making. 4,6
- Providers witness empowered patients, leading to job satisfaction and improved care delivery. 6

**References**

- Maryville University. (2023). The Importance of Health Advocacy to Improve Healthcare. https://online.maryville.edu/blog/importance-of-health-advocacy