

September 6, 2021

SBAR – Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation

PET THERAPY

Situation: Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the staff at CHI St. Vincent Hot Springs (SVHS), has dealt with unprecedented patient volumes as well as sicker patients requiring higher levels of care than ever before.

Background: Recently, a nurse in ICU was caring for a Covid patient that she had been caring for for several weeks. Her father had recently had Covid and when the patient coded, while she was performing CPR, she kept seeing her dad's face and was unable to stop and let the patient go. After agreeing to speak with the VP of Patient Care, the nurse revealed that something as simple as being able to pet a dog would have made her feel better.

Assessment: There is a local woman who has 5 dogs trained in pet therapy that used to come and do patient visits. She has not been allowed to visit due to the Covid restrictions. "The purpose of pet therapy is to help people cope with health or emotional problems and make them feel good." (Buzhardt, 2016)

Recommendation: Allow therapy dogs to come in the facility, to a designated place, for the staff to have time to spend with the dogs.

References

Buzhardt L. Therapy pets. VCA Hospitals. 2016. <https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/therapy-pets>.

Prepared by Teresa Lambert, MBA, RN, BSN
Vice President Patient Care Services
Assistant Chief Nursing Officer

