



Social Health Guardian

“Public and Private partnership for caring fragile elderly in risky demographic and social environmental contexts”

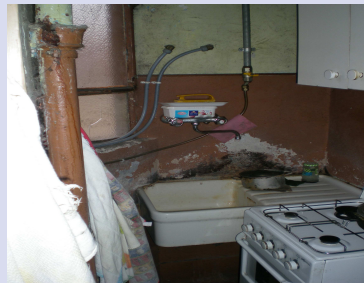
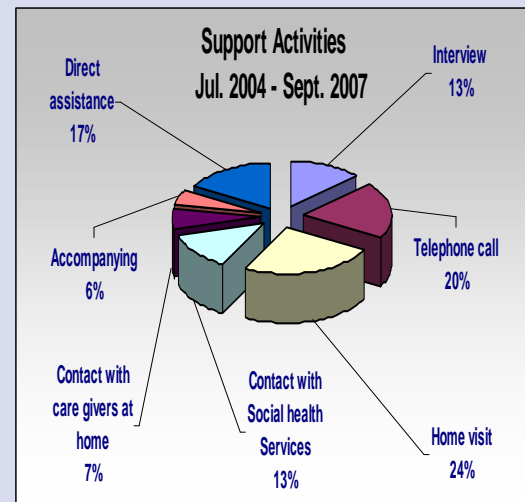
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Objectives. Foundation Don Gnocchi (Palazzolo Institute), an Italian network of more than 25 research, care and rehabilitation hospitals, experienced in 2003 a pilot location of “Guardians”. After this experience in 2004 the Project Social Health Guardians was implemented by public-private partnership (Ministry of Health, Region of Lombardy, City of Milan, Territorial Health Unit, Lombardy Housing company). The aim was to experiment a new service, empowering elderly citizens living in risky demographic and social environmental context, institutions, operators. Specific objectives: offering assistance to the elderly, developing a map of frailty, pointing out and activating local services and informal networks existing.

Activities. The Social Health Guardian is a new job profile who, as a sentinel in the area, detects expresses and unexpressed needs of the elderly, directs and activates health and social interventions, through Local Authorities services, organizes local supporting network, providing timely interventions. Main tools: social-health screening file of recipients, electronic database.



Results. In four years: placement of eleven locations of Guardians on the territory (target: 24,000 elderly). The goals were measured with specific indicators: 9,163 elderly reaches, 318,657 support activities (78,353 home visits, 53,184 direct assistance, 42,556 meetings with social services and 21,257 other caregivers). 4,207 elderly Registered in the database, their outstanding needs are: loneliness (56.43%), loss psycal-physical autonomy (47.81%), family disconforts (19.15%).

Conclusions. The collected data and feedback outline the achievement of objectives and that local, permanent and qualified operators, are able to detect and to track needs, assisting fragile people at home with effective planning care, stimulating the integration among social services, strengthening the informal relational network, monitoring, in part, the hospital admissions through an ambulatory/home care.

The increased participation of the private sector, including profit organizations (which funded part of the Project), shows the need to establish new partnerships to meet the needs of the fragile population, enhancing and integrating public and private resources, encouraging empowerment of the recipients themselves.