

ORGANIZED SYMPOSIA

OS-1

Symposist:

4. Tsuyoshi Koyama
Comprehensive Care Center for the Elderly, Kobushi-en, Executive Director, Japan

Title of presentation: Disaster Relief and Interprofessional Collaboration - Care is to Support Everyday Living, Not Just Life in Disasters

Abstract: Since our aim is to provide all-inclusive continuous home care services, we established a support center offering around-the-clock all-inclusive care in the provisional housing area after the Chuetsu Earthquake in October 2004. When our friends who gathered from all over Japan to offer their help after the earthquake suggested that this system should be spread all over the country, we formed the Disaster Welfare Supporting Network Thunderbird in August 2005. In 2006 the network was approved by the Cabinet as an NPO corporation, and in 2009 it was approved by the Chief Secretary of the Taxation Bureau as an authorized NPO.

This support center system, which was the only one managed and financed by a social welfare corporation at the time of the 2004 earthquake, has been finally appropriated a budget for operating costs after the Great East Japan Earthquake in March 2011, and centers have been built and are operating in the affected prefectures.

Since running such an activity only by the local project staff is difficult, we obtained great help from friends and also from students of the Tohoku Fukushi University. The university announced a call for students to do volunteer work for which they could earn credits, and 25-30 students at a time were assigned for 10 day shifts.

Experiencing such a systematic support was important not only for the disaster victims, but it served also as an opportunity for personal growth for the participating students.

Different professionals such as doctors, nurses, pharmacists, care workers and social workers registered in the Thunderbird Network are still working in the affected areas providing services to the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake.

Urgent tasks for the future are the establishment of

- 1) collaboration over a wide area,
- 2) an activity base for the support staff
- 3) an emergency reserve stock of necessary commodities in the community.

Profile:

• Authorized NPO Disaster Welfare Supporting Network Thunderbird, Representative Director

- Social Welfare Corporation, Nagaoka Welfare Association, Director, Executive Officer
- Comprehensive Care Center for the Elderly, Kobushi-en, Executive Director
- Niigata University of Health and Welfare, Visiting professor
- Tohoku Fukushi University, Specially appointed professor
- NPO for Human Resources Career Development, Executive Board Member
- Liaison Group for National Small-Scale Multifunctional Home Care Entrepreneurs, Vice President

- The Japanese Society for Dementia Care, Representative
- National Association for Managers, Committee for Long-Term Care Insurance Managers, Specialist

POSTERS

P-92

#00000

HOUSING AND CARE – SUPPORTING DAILY LIVING IN THE COMMUNITY

Yasuko Yoshii

Head of Nursing and Care

Niigata Prefectural Association of Visiting Nurses

Comprehensive Care Center for the Elderly, Kobushi-en, Japan

In Japan, there is a gap between elderly people's needs in their daily living and the care services that are actually offered. The Act on Social Service for Elderly, enforced in 1963, specifies that "Those who require all-time care and have difficulty in receiving such care at home shall be accepted by a nursing home for the elderly." In other words, institutions are for elderly who have difficulty in living in their ordinary homes.

However, living in an eight-person room with densely placed beds is certainly very far from normal life. Do elderly want to live in an institution? Do they want to live separated from their friends in the community? The answer is "No". They wish to continue living in the community.

So, how can we make that possible for them?

The Comprehensive Care Center for the Elderly, Kobushi-en, took on this challenge and established a round-the-clock, all year around service system for a fixed fee. By cooperating with home health care, it has become possible to support the daily living of the elderly in their homes without having to move to an institution. We can say that the walls of the conventional institution have been torn down and the functions of the institution have been simply moved out to the community. Comprehensive community care is like one big nursing home or hospital. Instead of creating housing with care services, it is creating a whole community with care services.

Summary of the "housing and care" concept:

- In Japan, the number of single and elderly households has drastically increased.
- Long-term care insurance has been established as a part of the social insurance system.
- The target population for community care is residents living in the community, therefore the services meet well the needs of the community residents.
- The objective of community care is to offer services which support the daily living of the elderly in their homes without having to move to an institution.
- It is necessary to provide around-the-clock, all year around community care for a fixed fee, including home health care.
- Decentralizing residential care facilities (so called "satellite facilities") would make rebuilding costs of conventional institutions unnecessary.
- The introduction of new technology, such as video phone, will be a new challenge.
- Finally, changing our thinking about services as support for "others", and thinking instead as support for "me" is the basis for all good care.