

# Building Bridges Behind Bars

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Host and Moderator: Amanda Tevelde

Presenters: Louise Brazier

Inge de Bruijn

Date: January 22, 2025



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**NSMHPCN**  
North Simcoe Muskoka Hospice Palliative Care Network

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# The Palliative Care ECHO Project

The Palliative Care ECHO Project is a 5-year national initiative to cultivate communities of practice and establish continuous professional development among health care providers across Canada who care for patients with life-limiting illness.

**Stay connected: [www.echopalliative.com](http://www.echopalliative.com)**



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# Thank You

The Palliative Care ECHO Project is supported by a financial contribution from Health Canada.

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# Introductions

## Host and Moderator

### Amanda Tevelde

Communications, Fundraising and Community Relations Specialist  
North Simcoe Muskoka Hospice Palliative Care Network

## Presenters

### Louise Brazier

Bereavement Services Coordinator  
North Simcoe Muskoka Hospice Palliative Care Network

### Inge de Bruijn

Retired RN



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# Thank you for joining us today!

Please remember to complete the satisfaction survey following today's session.



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# Learning Objectives

By the end of the session, participants will have:

Gained an awareness of challenges to providing care to criminally involved individuals.

Taken an in-depth look at the unmet needs of this population that could be met through HPC.

Worked collaboratively to gain tools, recommendations and resources for building HPC capacity.



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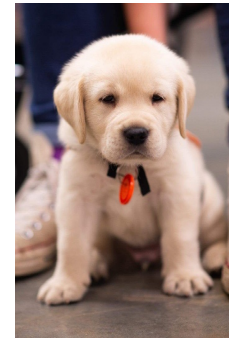






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# FUN FACT: Trooper's early training was in a jail!



# Expectations vs. Reality



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# Where we thought we were going:



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Where we ended up:

# Beaver Creek



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# Who we supported:

Someone's Son, Dad, Grandfather, Brother, and very likely someone who didn't have the same advantages growing up, compared to those of us that thrive.

ACES, Poverty, Mental Health and Addictions were prevalent in a large percentage of the population we supported.



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# Why?



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# Hospice Palliative Care in a Maximum Prison, ANGOLA Louisiana



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# Preparing for Prison

- Security training
- Special clearance forms (*CPIC 4-6 weeks to obtain*)
- Security passes
- Project proposal



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- Medium security site, rated capacity: 516
- Minimum security site, rated capacity: 201





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“Oh don't worry about bringing in Kleenex, I doubt very much they'll cry ”

- Chaplain Douglas





# The Program



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# Intake Day



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# Week 1

- The best-laid plans...
- The need to be flexible



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# Week 1 *again*

Sharing Stories and Honouring Differences



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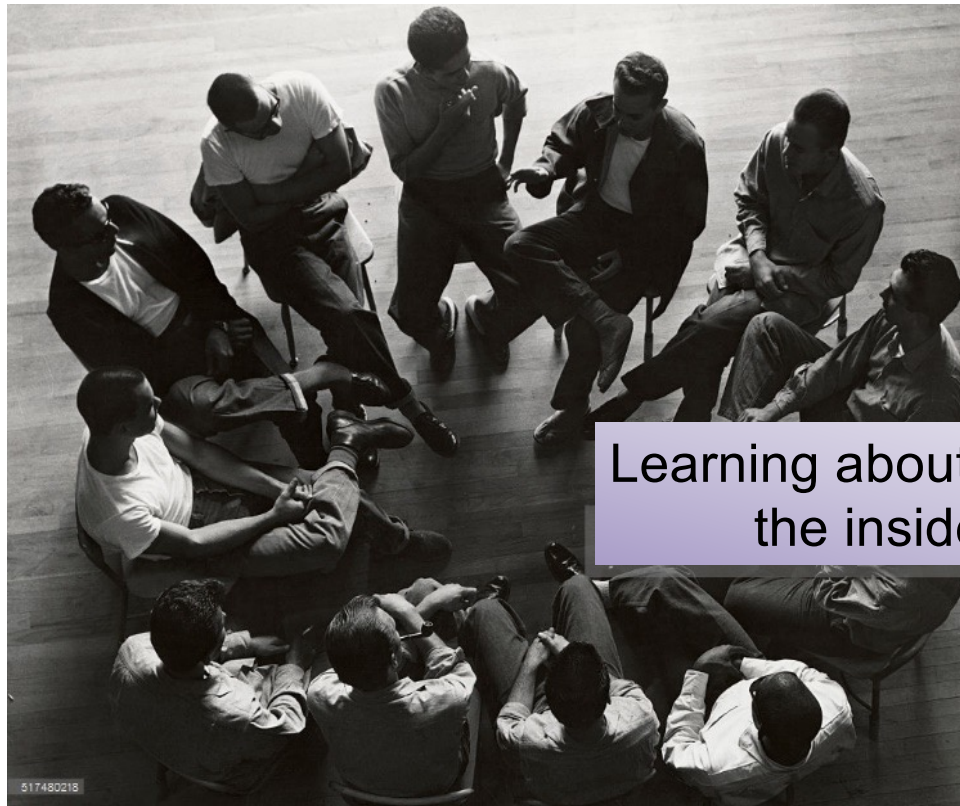
# Week 2

## Levelling the playing field



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# Week 3



Learning about life on the inside



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# Week 4





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# Mid-Point Evaluations

“Lighter”

“Quite helpful in letting my feelings out in front of others”

“One day closer to freedom”

“It is better once you start it on the second week”



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# Week 5

More in common than we realize



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# Week 6



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# Week 7

## Lockdown



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# Week 8

## Safer on the inside?



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# Week 9



# Program Review



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## End Evaluations

“I am grateful for doing this program and feel somewhat better about all off my losses than before I started”

“Happy and sort of sad it is over”, “that I am very connected to others”

“I feel not so heavy and helpful to deal with grief if it comes again and deal with it in a positive way”, “given a time and place to grieve in a safe environment”

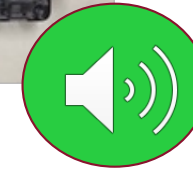


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# Check-in #1



“we came as strangers and left as brothers”

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## Check-in #2

***“The hug is in the handshake”***



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# Looking Ahead!

*“If I’d had this kind of support earlier on,  
maybe I wouldn’t have ended up here”*



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## Final words from the Chaplain:



# Next Steps



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# Next Steps

- To continue training inmates at the minimum institution to bring them up to the same level as the medium institution and consult on an as is needed basis
- To keep spreading the “Hospice Bug!”



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# Case Study



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# Case Study: Meet J.D.

- 52-year-old incarcerated individual, has been serving a 15-year sentence for a non-violent offense.
- Two years ago, J.D. was diagnosed with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma (liver cancer).
- Despite interventions, his cancer has progressed, and he is now receiving palliative care.
- J.D. has no immediate family support, as his parents are deceased, and his siblings are estranged.
- His primary support network consists of fellow inmates and a prison chaplain.

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# Case Study: J.D.

**What Needs Assessments are Needed?**



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# Case Study: J.D.

## Needs Assessment:

- Physical Needs
- Psychosocial Needs
- Spiritual Needs
- Grief and Bereavement Support Needs



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# Case Study: J.D.

What Kind of Interventions are Needed?



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# Case Study: J.D.

## Interventions

- Physical Care
- Psychosocial Support
- Spiritual Care
- Grief and Bereavement Support for Fellow Inmates



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# Case Study: J.D.

## **Implementation of Grief and Bereavement Support:**

A group of five inmates who are close to J.D. are trained to act as peer supporters. This group meets weekly with a mental health professional to discuss grief dynamics and strategies for supporting J.D.



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# Case Study: J.D.

**What are the benefits/outcomes of a grief and bereavement support group for:**

- For J.D.
- For his Fellow Inmates
- For the Prison System



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# References

- **At Both Ends of the Leash:** <https://eenp.org/abel>
- **Service dog training program changes lives at both ends of the leash:**  
<https://www.northcarolinahealthnews.org/2024/02/02/prison-service-dog-training-program-changes-lives-of-incarcerated-men-people-with-disabilities/>
- **Angola Prison Hospice: Opening the Door -**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMLjANwBRDk&list=PLEqf8pU7tcma6iaMAkYL90mSLgA1fHn7D&index=6>
- **Dying in Prison:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SUPQIXMdZHQ>



# Questions?

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