

UCEDD Mini Grant Report

Discovery Living

August 15, 2024

In February of 2024 Discovery Living we awarded a \$5,000 from the ON TRAC project at Iowa UCEDD. We were awarded the money to educate individuals served, their families, and our employees by providing quality, robust training through The Fatal Five course which is designed to help prevent health deterioration and/or premature death for individuals with disabilities.

We purchased licenses from IntellectAbility for current direct support staff and new hires to take the **Fatal Five**. The **Fatal Five** training was designed for Direct Support Professionals and general staff, it refers to the top five conditions linked to preventable deaths of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) they are: Aspiration, Bowel Obstruction, Dehydration, Seizures, and Infection/Sepsis.

We did not offer training of this nature to staff, individuals served or their families prior to this grant. We provided protocols to DSPs relating to these conditions; however, we did not provide this training for all DSPs. This grant award allowed us to obtain a license with IntellectAbility for **The Fatal Five – Fundamentals and Advanced**. We offered the training to individuals served and their families and required it for all employees. Through this license for this quality training, we will be able to educate current and new staff, individuals and families for three years, after which time, the training cost will be added to our operating budget.

Since April, 2024, 100% of our new employees completed The Fatal-Five Fundamentals within 90-days of hire and 87% of our current employees have completed this same training.

After employees took this training we saw a significant increase with employees discussing thoughts and concerns related to the individuals they supported. In several cases specific questions and intervention related questions were communicated, follow up then occurred with the individual's guardian and medical personnel for evaluation and treatment. Employees have a better understanding of, and empathy for individuals, due to The Fatal Five training. There have been a number of incidents where employees were able to be proactive with seeking

medical assessment and treatment, prior to an incident occurring.

We are reviewing our Employee Handbook, Policy/Procedure Manual, Health and Safety Flip Chart, and individual protocols to update based on The Fatal Five course. This is in the process and will continue over the next 6-12 months. We have also shared aspects of The Fatal Five training with individuals served and their Families and will continue this practice.

Many of our employees have independently reached out to their supervisor, our Director of Nursing and Executive Director reporting that The Fatal Five training was very beneficial and that they appreciated this training. Employees shared that they feel better educated on The Fatal Five and feel more comfortable with recognizing signs/symptoms, why they are occurring, and how to address. Employees have done a better job, since receiving this training, at communicating their concerns and using aspects of the training to help facilitate these discussions with their supervisor, guardians, and health/medical personnel.

Some of the comments and feedback we have received so far:

- Very thorough and detailed. Covered a lot of good information. Good points and reminders of what to look for and watch out for. Especially with our members.
- I am glad it was close captioned for me. I got more out of it by reading and listening.
- I like the Fatal Five training because it went into more detail about each subject.
- The modules are short and easy to understand.
- I feel like the training was helpful. Thank you for these trainings.

We really appreciated this grant!

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