

Iterated Program Description and Feedback V



Visit to Mount Sinai Hospital Palliative Care Hospice Unit, NYC on July 30, 2016

The new iterated Prototype Brochure was shared. It reflects a change in the Gardening Connection Program structure – “How Does The Program Work? (See attachment for iterated prototype brochure.)

The original idea was to have the program be presented as three paths, based on a patient’s needs, desires and abilities. After meeting with a palliative care physician, nurses at Mt. Sinai, and speaking with a community gardener this was changed based on their insights and feedback.

The iterated program is also flexible. It addresses needs and abilities of individual patients. It is now more focused on engaging families to join with a loved one to garden, or simply in enjoying time in the garden together. The iterated program now offers hospitality as an option – spending time in a garden without working, in order to engage as many folk who would like to participate, connect with others, get out of their house and into nature.

Questions to address – Is a patient joining individually or with a caretaker, or family? Would they like to be matched to a *Gardening Connection volunteer buddy*? Are they able to, and want to do volunteer work, or is their interest in hospitality – coming to the garden to relax in nature and connect with others? Based on these questions a patient will be matched to a garden that can accommodate them.

Each garden is unique. They have their own organization and structure. They have unique needs at specific points in time. They differ in terms of accessibility. Each garden that would like to partner with Gardening Connection will review how they can best serve their community and fulfill it’s own needs at the same time.

Feedback on the new prototype and program changes reflected in it:

I liked the original idea to have three paths from which to choose, with the possibility to change paths, but I prefer this. I think it will decrease apprehension and anxiety one might have had in terms of what they are able to do, and what the expectations are. I like the change.

I love the idea of getting family members involved.