Explanation of Results

The 3 measures that were used for this project all had improvements or successes from the first session to the last:

- 66% of the participating members had decreased PHQ-9 scores or the scores that remained at 0
- All indicators the were measured from the ethnographic observations had improving results
- All participating members answered yes to each of the 3 post-project survey questions

Recommendations

One recommendation that I would change if I were to do this in the future would be to have more sessions. We had a situation where we need to get confirmation to be able to use the robot within the facility. There were also issues with trying to coordinate our schedule and Gary’s due to all the activities that were already planned. Because of this, the number of sessions that we were planning to have got shortened. I also am going to recommend the staff to try and conduct similar interactive poetry sessions in the future. Gary was open to the potential of coming back to do more sessions, but these interactive activities are things that we would be able to conduct ourselves. Gary was great at providing us with different resources, tips, and tricks that he uses to run this session. I ran the culminating event myself, so I don’t see of activities staff having any problem doing it themselves.

Staff Testimonials

Emily VanOpdorp (Life Enrichment Director)- “The Poetry Project/telepresence robot offered such a unique set of experiences to our members. I enjoyed witnessing and encouraging members to step out of their comfort zone as we worked together to bring these poems to life.”

Lynn Jaenke (Life Enrichment Aide)- “Many of the members participated in the creative poetry stories and were laughing at the jokes and stories that were created and shared. It was a wonderful experience for staff and the members!”

Conclusion

This project turned out to be a huge success for our facility. Everyone enjoyed it and were fascinated by the technology and the activities that we were doing. There were multiple members that were asked if we are going to be able to do this again, which really made me happy. This project that Gary started is something that I would recommend to any facility that is interested in it. It is a unique and interesting experience that I believe that most people living in long term care can enjoy. You can structure the sessions to meet the needs of the members that you are providing it to.

Acknowledgments

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