

Abstract

The most vulnerable patients often seek help from multiple providers of healthcare, yet time constraints and hierarchies can act as barriers to collaboration between practitioners; this lack of collaboration can lead to substandard care. Using Social Constructionist principles, this inquiry sought to introduce a new idea for collaboration across disciplines to a large integrative healthcare practice. Using grounded theory and participatory action research methodology, a case-discussion pilot meeting with practitioners of primary care medicine, psychotherapy and complementary and alternative medicine was held. This led to the formation of a small collaborative group of practitioners of psychotherapy, acupuncture, naturopathic medicine and nutrition. Themes of safety and connection between practitioners emerged as being important to the likelihood of effective collaboration between them.