Public Health Nurses’ Experiences of Training in Marte Meo Communication Skills

Colette O’Donovan | Licensed Marte Meo Supervisor and Coordinator, Marte Meo Training Centre, Health Service Executive

The following is a research abstract and poster that was submitted and accepted for presentation at the 3rd International Nursing and Midwifery Conference, that was held in Galway, Ireland in April 2011. The final research report is presently being written up as a research study for my MSc by research. Further details will be available in autumn 2011. [See Article Marte Meo Magazine 2012 | Art. 26E(*)]

*** Abstract

**Title:** Public Health Nurses’ Experiences of Training in Marte Meo Communication Skills

This research poster presents emerging findings from a study of ten PHNs’ (Public Health Nurses) experiences of training in Marte Meo communication skills. Specifically it focuses on their changing style of practice – "looking with a new lens".

**Background:**
In Ireland, the Public Health Nurse Service focuses on the provision of care at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. A review of literature and health care policy suggests that Public Health Nurses (PHNs) are ideally placed to provide family support and to transfer information to parents on parent-child attachment and development.

PHNs are continuously up-skilling their competencies in relation to their parent-child observational skills and their interpersonal skills, which influence the nurse in her supportive role to the family. In Ireland, Marte Meo communication skills training has been provided to PHNs since 1998.

The Marte Meo method is a film based supportive interaction programme that provides concrete and detailed information to parents and professionals on child development, developmental processes and how development is supported in daily interaction moments.
To date the views of PHNs who completed the Marte Meo training have not been documented. The purpose of this research study is to explore with PHNs their experiences of training in Marte Meo communication skills and how this enhances their work practice with families.

**METHOD:**
The study is of qualitative design, based on hermeneutic phenomenology, underpinned by Heideggerian philosophy, whose aim is to understand experiences. Unstructured interviews provided opportunities for the PHNs to describe their experiences of the training and how it facilitates their work practice with families. Data analyses are guided by a hermeneutic circle of understanding, which allows for the experience of moving between the part and the whole, via dialogue. It is anticipated that findings will inform future training and educational needs of PHNs.


**Further Information:**

COLETTE O’DONOVAN,
Licensed Marte Meo Supervisor and Co-ordinator, Marte Meo Training Centre,
Health Service Executive,
193, Richmond Road,
Dublin 3 | Ireland.
Tel.: (+353)-(0)1-884 05 11
Fax: (+353)-(0)-1-884 05 18
Mobile: (+353)-(0)87 797 6561
E-mail: colette.odonovan@hse.ie
Public Health Nurses’ Experiences of Training in Marte Meo Communication Skills

Aim of the study: To explore with PHNs their experiences of training in Marte Meo communication skills and how this enhances their work practice with families.

Methodology

Guided by Hermeneutic Phenomenology.

Quantitative design

Interviews were conducted through unstructured interviews.

Data Analysis

• Structured analysis/interpreting reading – researcher is involved in identifying patterns of meaningful connection
• Interpretation of the whole – researcher reflects on the initial reading to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the findings (Streubert Spaziale and Carpenter, 2003)

References


Acknowledgements

The Public Health Nurses who participated in this study.

The Director of Public Health Nursing, HSE

Contact Details

Colette O’Donovan, RNID, Dip Counselling. Licensed Marte Meo Supervisor, Post-graduate research student

Supervisor, Dr. Jean Clarke, PhD, MSc, RN, RCN, RM, RPHN

Colette O’Donovan | Communication Skills

Training MM Communication Skills & Public Health Nurses’ Experiences

June 2011