

The Butterfly Project

Tracy Healy, BSN, RN, Clinical Leader

Lindsey McDermott, BSN, RN, Staff Nurse

6 South - Medical Telemetry Unit



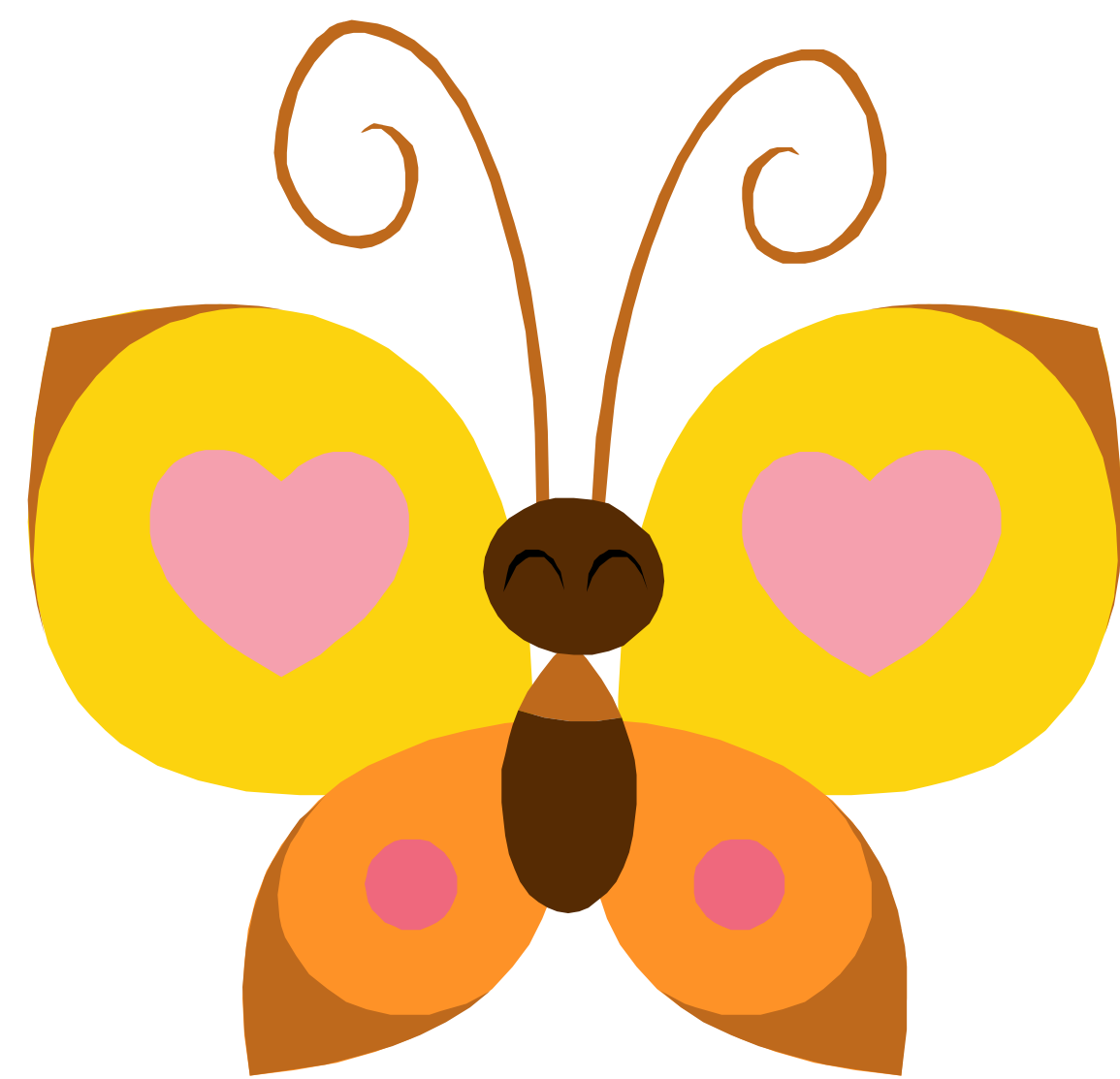
Charting Our Course

Purpose

The purpose of the Butterfly Project was to enhance patient and family centered care for those individuals nearing the end of life.

The Butterfly Project begins when a patient or family decides to focus on comfort measures.

The butterfly communicates a special caring to all who may be involved with the care.



The butterfly symbolizes:

Transformation

Tranquility

Change

Hope

Description

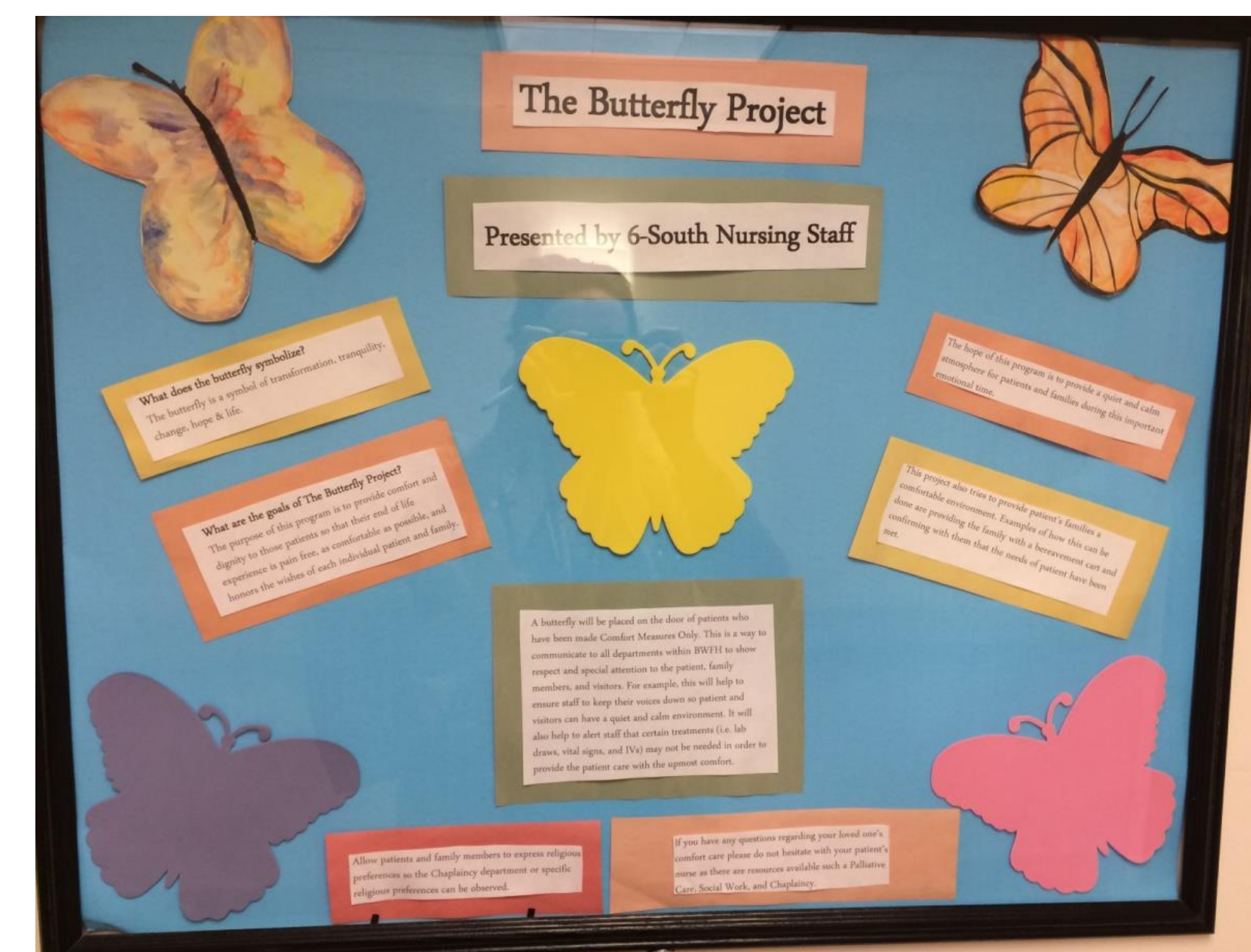
- The 6 South Unit Council identified the need to address end of life care on this busy 36 bed medical telemetry unit
- A review of the literature was conducted
- Nursing staff members were interviewed regarding experiences with end of life care
- The unit council worked with an interdisciplinary group to develop & initiate the project
- All unit and interdisciplinary staff working on 6 South received education about the Butterfly Project

Process

- Once patients &/or families make a decision to focus on comfort care at the end of life, the nurse caring for the patient is responsible for discussing the Butterfly Project with them
- After receiving permission from the patient and family, the nurse places butterflies outside the room on the patient's door
- All staff working on 6 South recognize the butterfly as a symbol for a patient who is approaching the end of life

Evaluation

- A post implementation survey was sent to all members of the nursing staff (RN, PCA, Unit Secretary) and it revealed:
 - All responders were aware of the project
 - 36% of RN's had initiated the Butterfly Project
 - 73% of responders had participated in care of a patient Butterfly Project patients
 - 93 % of responders felt that the project had a positive impact on end of life care for patients and families



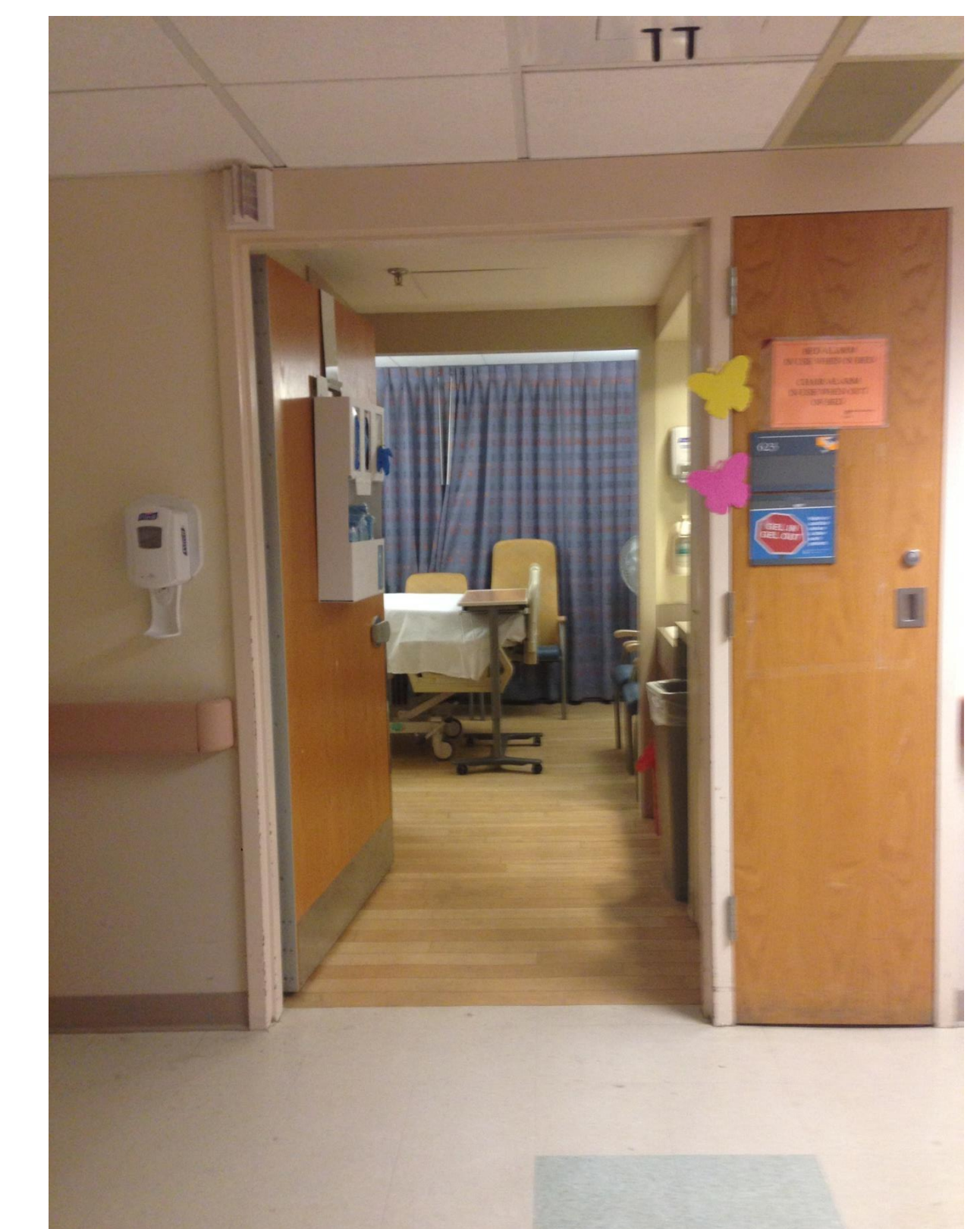
Anecdotal comments from survey respondents:

“Better than a CMO sign”

“Nice reminder for staff”

Next Steps

- Continue the Butterfly Project on 6 South
- Survey interdisciplinary staff regarding their knowledge of the Butterfly Project
- Consult with the Palliative Care Nurse to expand and improve end of life care
- Collaborate with Nursing Practice Committee and Unit Councils to facilitate implementation on other inpatient units



This visual effect of the butterfly promotes a calm and quiet atmosphere for the patient and family as the continuum of care progresses.