Background

Potential social network

Active social network

Informal caregiver(s)

Client

Citizen initiatives

Volunteers

Professional support

Expertisecentrum Mantelzorg (n.d.)
Methodology

aimed to examine how professionals experience collaboration with informal caregivers and to further understand their perspective to strengthen care triad in the future.

- Search and study selection
- Quality appraisal
- Data extraction
- 22 articles were included for thematic synthesis
Thematic synthesis

1) results sections extracted,
2) open coding,
3) descriptive themes,
4) thematic themes.

The thematic synthesis meant that final themes were further interpreted which went beyond the themes of the primary studies (Sandelowski and Barrosso 2003, Thomas & Harden 2008).
Themes

1) Professionals are expert versus partner
2) Communication in the care triad
3) Hierarchy in care triad
4) Caregivers are essential
5) Mismatch between services and needs
6) Professionals feel restricted in collaborating with the caregiver
7) Diversity in the care triad
Collaborating in a partnership approach, professionals feel restricted.

- Organisational structures
- Lack of agreement between professionals
- Not feeling competent and confident
“…diversity can be stimulating or stressful” (Carpentier et al. 2008)

- Diversity influences collaboration
- Impacts balance in roles
CONCLUSION

Working in collaboration with informal caregivers requires a different way of functioning for professionals.

Proposes that dialogue should be initiated between informal caregivers and professionals to eliminate discrepancies in expectations and experiences in collaboration.

Highlights the need for collaboration with informal caregivers to be included in the curricula of allied health, nursing and social work education.

There is a gap in the literature regarding knowledge about the role of diversity within collaboration.
INFORMAL CARE AND DIVERSITY SHOULD BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE CURRICULA OF ALLIED HEALTH, NURSING AND SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION.

Questions?
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