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Case Presentation/ Peer Consultation

Ms. F is a 92 year old white female, who was admitted to St. Barnabas Senior Living Services September, 2007. She is an oriented individual who is capable of expressing her own needs and desires. Ms. F received a 30 upon entering the facility on her mini-mental evaluation (highest possible). She has a history of falling and was admitted to St. Barnabas' falling leaf program upon admission to facility. She was admitted to St. Barnabas to regain her strength through physical therapy and Occupational therapy after a recent fall in her home. Ms. F is financially independent and is listed on St. Barnabas census as full private pay. Before her fall she lived independently with support staffs in a Condo in a gated community in town with around the clock care. Ms. F chose to make her niece (who lives in TX) her power of attorney both financially and medically three years ago.

Ms. F's has recovered from her fall and physical therapy, social work and her doctor have voiced that she is capable of returning to her home with assistance. Ms. F niece recently made the choice during a care plan meeting (conference call) that she would rather her aunt be admitted to the long term care facility instead of going home. When she was informed about her aunt being healthy enough to return home her niece stated that it was very expensive for her aunt to hire around the clock sitters and it would be cheaper to keep her here.

Ms. F is very unhappy with her current situation because she would like to live as independently as possible and feels that she is not in control of her life.

The best outcome to this issue would be for Ms. F to be allowed to live her remaining life in a manner she would like. Strategies that the Social work team has initiated have been to contact niece and inform her about St. Barnabas's assisted living program located at 600 Pine Street. The assisted living program offers sitting services, home health, and food service and laundry services. Unfortunately her niece is not very responsive to the assisted living program and hardly ever returns phone calls.

The strengths that Ms F has are that she is very intelligent and has the financial resources to live independently. She is also healthy enough to live on her own with minimal support. She also has the support of St. Barnabas.

Barriers are her POA's lack of compassion for her situation and her desire to retain as much of her money as possible. Another barrier is the social injustice of how older adults are treated. Because she is her power of attorney the facility has their hands tied to act without her POA consent due to legal ramifications.

Questions:

How do I assist Ms. F in achieving her goals to live as independently as possible and to empower her to have a high level of life satisfaction?