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Managing behavioral disturbance with the dementia client through person-centered care model

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Background: Person-centered care models regarding dementia care has demonstrated positive outcomes for behavioral disturbance, however, leadership, guidance and training on bringing this model into practice is lacking in our health care delivery system. The intent is to increase awareness and understanding about person-centered care for people with dementia and to discuss the complex needs of people with dementia, leading to compromised behavioral symptoms. Discussion includes sleep-wake-cycle disturbance, verbal outbursts and aggression. Further discussion encompasses evidence based outcomes with the use of Person-Centered Care that focuses on preserving the "personhood" of the individual.

Objectives: 1. The learner will understand the role of Person Center Care for the dementia client. 2. The learner will identify the difference between Person Centered Care and Task Centered and the significance of moving towards a Person Centered Approach to dementia care. 3. Learners will develop necessary tools to manage challenging behaviors and how Person Centered Care model can directly impact escalation of behavior symptoms. 4. Learners will recognize that all behavior is a form of communication. The learner will develop necessary skills on communication techniques with the dementia client.

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Utilizing hands-on sensitivity training for first responders, community members and school aged children effectively enhances skill level, skill set, empathy and confidence when interacting with a person with dementia

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Silver Dawn Senior Friendly Communities

In an effort to continue with a progressive approach to the booming senior population within the United States, we must focus on creating senior friendly communities, both big and small, in an effort to address the growing needs for this vulnerable population. Senior friendly requires more than just a focus on infrastructure, but rather an in-depth effort to enhance empathy, communication skills and provide purposeful engagement for the elders in our lives. This can be accomplished by addressing the social aspects of aging, the fundamentals of the physical changes that occur as we age as well as a focus on empathy enhancement through the use of sensitivity training, education on dementia and open discussions on shared experiences. In the research conducted in the City of Blue Island, Illinois, first responders were given a self-reporting pre-test followed by sensitivity training, dementia education and empathy enhancement training. A self-reporting post-test was given after the training modules. The pre and post questionnaire explored the first responder's amount of training received on senior issues, confidence level with interacting with a senior and ability to relate to and understand the fundamentals of dementia. Within 6 months of training provided to police, fire, medics and the building department within the city of Blue Island, it was determined that: First responders receive no training on senior issues prior to active duty. It was also determined that the Sensitivity Training yielded an increase in understanding of physical and emotional aging issues by 23%. Dementia education provided yielded a 31% increase in self-reported understanding and awareness of dementia related issues. Finally empathy enhancement through the discussion of shared experiences yielded an 18% increase in confidence level and acceptance level of a senior's daily struggles and experiences. The improvements seen in the self-reported post tests indicate that a social model of training, education and hands on sensitivity experiences will result in higher levels of positive interaction among first responders and the seniors that they serve as well as a potential decrease in the negative interactions and escalations of situations involving seniors and those with dementia. The Silver Dawn training modules utilized within community settings can prepare the United States to become more senior friendly, empathic and empowered to successfully engage our growing senior population.

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