

Caring for Residents with Challenging Behaviors  
Training Committee Minutes  
March 18 2004

Present: Lee-Anne Boatwright, DMHAS  
Rick Brown, CAHCF  
Sharon Ciarlo, DMHAS  
Teresa Cusano, LTCOP  
Jennifer Glick, DMHAS  
Casey McGannon, Alzheimer's Association  
Lynn Noyes, DSS  
Theresa Velendzas, LTCOP

In keeping with the Short Term Goal of the committee to develop a training program for active caregivers in nursing facilities, the committee decided to organize a state-wide, all day, educational conference.

A general description of the concept being researched and developed by the committee members follows:

- The conference target date is October 2004.
- Potential locations being researched: Middlesex Community College or Manchester Community College.
- Tentative speakers from DMR contact list and Alzheimer's Association to present and engage audience in workshops.
- Context of conference to take on Risk Management approach.
- The conference will emphasize behavior management approaches training as well as on the job reinforcement and culture change.
- The conference will offer some type of certification as well as CEUs for both Social Work professionals and Nurses.
- Committee will set up video taping of program potentially through "Filming" internship program in a local college.
- The program will offer materials to facilitate Train the Trainer concept.
- The committee will develop for the conference a Best Practices & Practical Approached Tool to try and help answer direct questions.
- For every staff member facility sends, registration for one CNA will be free - this will encourage wider participation among facilities.
- Breaking the Bonds Committee will assist with funding the needs of conference.
- The committee will seek out co-sponsors for funding assistance for the conference.

In keeping with the Long Term Goal which is to influence in-servicing in facilities as well as the curriculum of education for professionals and paraprofessionals, the committee reviewed DPH suggested curriculum for CNAs, Training Site list, as well as materials from current training programs offered by the Alzheimer's Association and DMHAS.

Also briefly reviewed were the training curriculum at UCONN for nursing students.

This review resulted in a consensus that even when Behavior Management education is suggested or offered, there is no consistent standard or means to ensure that this component of training receives standard attention. This committee will research further by looking at examination for certification or licensure programs to get a better idea as to whether or not the overall state-wide focus on "challenging behaviors" needs to be standardized. For CNA Training the additional 25 hours allotted in CT are being examined.

The committee has decided to perform a literature review. An intern from St. Joseph's or UCONN will be recruited to assist in this pursuit under the committee's direction.

The committee is reviewing OIG reports on Nursing Home populations as well as trainings given to other professionals including the police force.

The committee decided it was not necessary to meet again before the workgroup meeting on April 30.

By April 15<sup>th</sup> committee members will contact Theresa Velendzas with updates on the following tasks:

1. Lynn Noyes to explore feasibility of using space at Middlesex Community College and obtaining interns from for the filming of conference.
2. Casey McGannon to explore availability of speaker from Alzheimer's Association.
3. Lee-Ann Boatwright to explore feasibility of speaker used in other programs by DMHAS.
4. Jennifer Glick to continue research and initiate search with referrals from committee members for internship program interested in assisting with literature review.
5. Theresa Velendzas to continue research on current programs, facilitate coordination of literature review, as well as explore testing standards by third party examination board.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa Velendzas, LTCOP