

Culture Change and Dementia Care

Why is it important?

- 5.2 million Americans have Alzheimer's
- Every 71 seconds someone develops AD
- 70% of residents have dementia

Personhood

- What makes someone a person?
- People with dementia are often not “seen”
- How does someone with dementia know they’re still a person?



COMPLAINTS
of a
DUTIFUL
DAUGHTER



Signs of dementia from video

- Thinks she's 50 years old
- Doesn't know her daughter is her daughter
- Forgetting phone calls & dinner
- Difficulty computing figures
- Word-finding difficulty
- Confusion about details

Common signs of dementia

- Memory loss
- Abstract thinking
- Judgement & reasoning
- Language problems
- Disorientation to person, place, time

“I’m a human
being today.”

From *Dancing with Rose*,
by Lauren Kessler

What is Culture Change?

- Person-centered, person-directed
- Home—what touches or connects us
- Relationships & Community
- Uniqueness
- Potential for growth

Day-to-day Culture Change

- Looking for their mother
- Doesn't want to take a bath
- Can't sit still long enough to eat
- Wants to go home
- Thinks you are their daughter/son

Opportunities for Culture Change

- Dining process
- Daily schedule
- Activities, activities, activities
- Hygiene schedule and methods
- Best Friends Approach
- Consistent staffing
- Supporting staff (training, flexibility)

Special considerations

- Giving choice – must gauge stage
- Communication changes – community meeting, communicating history & routine
- Progressive nature – preferences will change
- Over-stimulation – watch for too much responsibility with too many steps
- Planning ahead – limited time frame, need visual cues
- Lack of initiative – how to fill the day

Know The Unique Person





Encourage
Love
and
Affection

Realize
the
potential
for
growth



Help Build Community





Have
Fun!

Thank you!

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