Quality of Life for Persons with Dementia

Gwendolyn de Geest, RN, BSN, MA
Where is my Pancake?

www.LivingDementia.com

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WHY ARE WE . . . . .

• Feeding people who are not hungry?

• Bathing people who do not want to be bathed?

• Putting people to bed who are not sleepy?
“People with dementia might be ‘too distracted’ to eat during group mealtimes, and later be acting out when what they actually need is food.”

Person-Centered Care

Communication

My Story Begins Here

Responsive Behavior
Solution in Person-Centered Care

- Quality of life
- Decreased agitation
- Improved sleep patterns
- Maintain self-esteem
The Person Comes First

• Thomas Kitwood (1937-1998)
• Dementia reconsidered
• Culture of care
• The uniqueness of persons
• Connected
What does the Person need?

- Vines need lime in the soil
- Cheetahs need wide open spaces
- Persons need culture, past, desires, & how the central nervous system is functioning

Kitwood, T., 1997
This is Norman

• Night watchman at airport
• Climbing over side rails at 2am
• Biographical information
What is the Care Wheel?

• Circular Chart
• Information about persons with dementia
• Describes the care path
Why do we need it?

• Person-centered care
• Keeps person as independent as possible
• Partners family with professional
This is Peter

• 13 - first dog
• 18 - lumber camps
• 20 - married
• 74 - Tick Tock Manor
• Today - Bath Day
Where is Peter?

- Build Trust
- Focus on language
- Peter’s world of here and now
- Facts, logic, reason
“There is actually better evidence and more significant results in caregiver interventions than there is in anything to treat this disease so far.”

Living Dementia Approach

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