



Dementia Care Specialist Training

Training Overview

The Dementia Care Specialist Training Program is designed for care management staff to: increase awareness of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ARD); introduce a validated cognitive screening tool that can be administered telephonically; provide a strategy to help caregivers manage challenging behaviors; learn the importance of identification, documentation, assessment, and support of family caregivers; and understand the importance of collaboration with community-based agencies to offer complimentary ARD education and support.

Length of Training

12.5 hours

Target Audience

Social workers, healthcare professionals, nurses, case managers, other professionals in healthcare and aging service agencies

Training Objectives

- Day 1: Dementia-Capable Care, Role of Dementia Care Specialists, Fundamentals of Alzheimer's Disease, and Using a Validated Screening Tool
 - Differentiate normal aging from potential warning signs of Alzheimer's disease
 - Identify the symptoms of Alzheimer's as the disease progresses
 - Explain the importance of early detection of dementia
 - Use a validated cognitive screening tool
- Day 2: Practical Dementia Care Management
 - Identify special considerations for medication management when working with a person living with dementia
 - Demonstrate the ability to use a dementia-informed lens when managing co-existing conditions
 - Recognize safety needs for patients with dementia

- Summarize the components of the IDEA! behavior management strategy
- Day 3: Caring for the Family Caregivers: Caregiver Identification, Assessment, and Support
 - Describe the importance of identifying family/friend caregivers who are involved in care
 - Explain the potential toll caregiving can take on caregivers
 - Demonstrate effective use of caregiver assessment tools and best practice care plans
 - Identify effective ways to support caregivers
- Day 4: Community Resources: Supporting Families Affected by Dementia
 - Identify three reasons why interagency collaboration is important to support the needs of families affected by ADRD
 - Describe three components of an effective referral to a community-based organization
 - Identify at least 5 community resources that may help a family affected by ADRD