



Aging Services of Minnesota **GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR DEMENTIA CARE**

PREAMBLE: The *Guiding Principles for Dementia Care* guides our decisions and leads us to create a community of quality dementia care providers and informed consumers.

We strive toward these goals:

- Our program has a written statement of its mission and overall philosophy that reflects the needs of persons with dementia.
- Our program promotes the involvement of the people being served, their families, and staff in the development, implementation, and evaluation of care and service delivery, including education and support. The program has an effective assessment and care planning process that responds to the ongoing and changing needs of those being served.
- All staff, including management, direct care, and other staff, who work with persons with dementia and their families in our program receive **initial training** that covers the following key components:
 - The organization's mission statement and overall philosophy
 - Basic information about dementia and its various types, including common symptoms
 - Philosophy and implementation of activity-focused care and services
 - Practical approaches for providing care and/or services for those with dementia in a specialized environment
 - Communicating with persons with dementia and their support circle
 - Problem solving and accommodating challenging behavior and understanding it as a form of communication. In addition to dementia-specific training, direct care staff members receive additional initial training as required by any applicable requirements.
- All staff members have ongoing opportunities for **continuing education and support** relating to dementia. For direct care staff, any in-service training should integrate topics focusing on dementia and the needs of those we serve whenever appropriate.
- Our program provides activity-focused care and specialized programming that are fundamental to the daily experience of those we serve and should reflect the individual's preferred lifestyle and functioning level, while providing a sense of usefulness, pleasure and success. A balanced dementia care program includes:
 - Productive and useful activities
 - Self-care activities
 - Leisure and life-enriching activities
- Our program's physical environment and design features support the functioning of those with dementia, accommodate behaviors, maximize functional abilities, promote safety, and encourage independence. The setting also provides a method for monitoring unescorted exiting. If our program is in a residential setting, we monitor and respond to the needs of the people being served on a 24-hour basis.
- Our program complies with all applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations, such as applicable licensing requirements, the Vulnerable Adults Act, the Housing-with-Services Contract Act, the Dementia Disclosure law and the Dementia Training law.
- Our program, if in a housing-with-services setting, supports and endorses Aging Services of Minnesota's *Code of Ethics*. The *Code of Ethics* guides our decisions and leads us to create a culture of mutual respect, understanding and trust with the people we serve and those who support them.