

Alzheimer's Disease:

How dementia training can impact quality of care in long term care settings



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Objectives for this presentation

- Clarification of existing training opportunities
- Examples of how training in practical techniques in communication and behavior management can impact care
- Thoughts on future training/consultation services



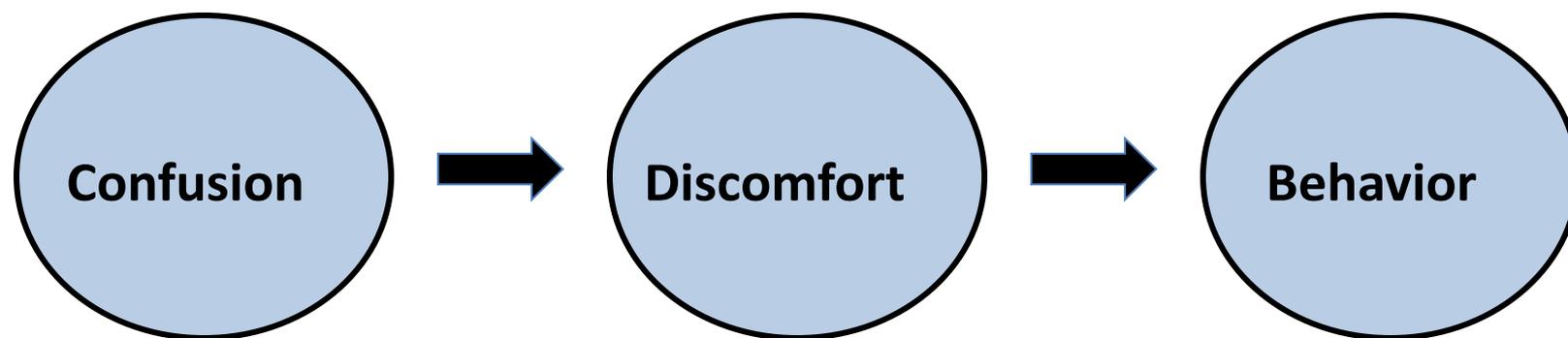


Types of training

- Training is widely offered by non profit and for profit entities, employers, hospitals, community colleges:
 - In person, online, printed materials in multiple languages
- Key topics
 - Overview of dementia, Alzheimer's and related disorders
 - Communication techniques
 - Behavioral approaches
 - Triggers for delirium and confusion

Our framework

Alzheimer's Disease: A Disease of Emotions



Communication approaches

Compassionate Communication means:

- ✓ Adjusting your expectations
- ✓ Listening actively and carefully to what the person is trying to communicate
- ✓ Use simple communication techniques
- ✓ Creating moments of success and reducing possible failures
- ✓ Praising and reassuring frequently & sincerely
- ✓ Looking for joy and humor wherever possible

Sample behavioral approaches:

Understanding Why Difficult Behavior Occurs

Behaviors result from
a **cause** & happen
for a reason



Understanding the
cause can help you
figure out what to do

Observe, identify and
examine the behavior

- 1) What was the behavior? Is it harmful to the individual or others?
- 2) Did something trigger the behavior?
- 3) What happened immediately before and after the behavior?
- 4) How did you react?
- 5) Try to identify the cause

Managing Difficult Behaviors

Remain calm

Respond to feelings

Reassure the person

Remove yourself

Return later



Explore potential solutions & develop a plan

Are the needs of the person being met?

Can adapting the environment help?

Look for patterns in the behavior

How can you change your reaction or approach
to the behavior?

Divert or distract

Margaret

- “Aggression” during bathing
- Labeled by staff as being difficult
- Likely to be placed on antipsychotic medications

- Observe how the approach to bathing influences her reaction.
- How would you react under similar circumstances?

Education, Support & Safety



Education & Training
for Professionals,
Families and
Diagnosed individuals



Support Groups &
Learning Circles –
caregiver and early
stage pt



MedicAlert + Safe
Return





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Enhancing the Quality of Life for those
with Alzheimer's through:

- Patient & Family Services
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