

Baird nurses attend Alzheimer's, dementia care seminar

By Messenger Post Media

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Val Brackley and Sharon Paine from The Baird Nursing Home recently completed the Alzheimer's and Dementia Care Seminar conducted by Wilson Shepard Education Associates.

The seminar was led by Judy D'Angelo. Her credentials include a master's degree in nursing, adult nurse practitioner, legal nurse consultant and certified dementia practitioner trainer.

The day of training focused on looking back at patients before their dementia and Alzheimer's diagnosis. Different careers, habits, personality traits and behaviors can weave back into a patient's state-of-mind. Caregivers can utilize their background as a pattern to predict how someone thinks or will react to future situations or daily tasks.

In the modern fast-paced world, a dementia or Alzheimer's diagnosis requires extra attentiveness and a slower conversational pace. It takes a minimum of 60 seconds for these patients to verbally process information and they can find multitasking a challenge.

"We work our care around each individual patient as a person and not as an institution," Brackley said. "What works for one patient may not work for another. We find that attending seminars and exposing our staff to other forms of health care education helps our staff continue to be successful, and also brings new interaction tactics and reminds us about residents' perspectives as they deal with age and health issues."

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