

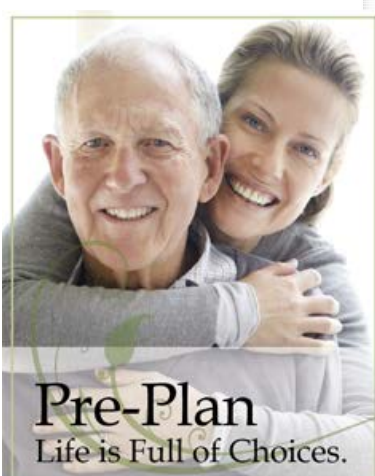
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## Franciscan Living Communities strengthens memory-care services with Certified Dementia Practitioner training

Written by Healthy Living News. Posted in [October](#)



Providing the best possible care for people with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia requires a comprehensive understanding of how the disease impacts every aspect of an individual's life—and the lives of their loved ones.

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Without this knowledge, even the best-intentioned caregiver is ill-equipped to deal with the unique and constantly changing needs of individuals with memory loss.

Always looking for opportunities to strengthen their continuum of care for residents, Franciscan Living Communities (FLC), a division of Sylvania Franciscan Health sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio, recently invested in Certified Dementia Practitioner (CDP) training for staff members representing each of the organization's campuses.

The in-depth, day-long seminar, held on Wednesday, September 10 at St. Clare Commons in Perrysburg and led by Tara O'Rourke, Administrator/Dementia Trainer for the ProMedica Goerlich Center for Alzheimer's and Dementia Care, provided a wide range of vital information pertinent not only to clinical caregivers, but also to managerial and administrative staff as well as family members caring for loved ones with memory loss. Staff members who successfully completed the seminar earned credentialing as Certified Dementia Practitioners.

As O'Rourke explains, "Dementia care is not intuitive. Caregivers need to learn about the disease process and learn best-practice strategies for proactively assisting residents through daily care while maintaining dignity and quality of life, reducing behavioral issues, and maintaining safety."


The CDP seminar covered a broad range of important topics related to dementia care and required by the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners (NCCDP), including diagnosis, prognosis, pathophysiology, and treatment; communication and feelings; depression and repetitive behavior; paranoia, hallucinations, wandering, and hoarding; aggressive behaviors, catastrophic reactions, intimacy, and sexuality; personal care, pain, bathing, dressing, toileting, nutrition, falls, and sleep disturbance; recreational activities; environment; staff and family support; diversity and cultural competence; as well as spiritual care and end-of-life issues.

"This was very comprehensive, interactive training provided by experts in the field of dementia care who live and breathe it every day," says Carrie McGlothlin, Regional Director of Marketing for Franciscan Living Communities. "They went well beyond the theoretical to introduce practical techniques and approaches—including what to do and what not to do—that will make our staff more successful at caring for this population. Our goal is that the staff members who attended the seminar will disseminate what they've learned throughout our communities, which will make us truly unique as an organization."

McGlothlin is gratified that the CDP training team made the effort to individualize the seminar by incorporating the unique philosophy upon which the memory-care programs at St. Clare Commons and other Franciscan Living Communities are based. The organization's personalized approach to Alzheimer's and dementia care helps reduce residents' cognitive stress through the use of customized interventions, including music, video, and stimulating therapies.

The CDP training will not only benefit residents with memory loss, but also their families who will have much greater peace of mind knowing that their loved one is receiving the best possible care from properly trained staff.

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Franciscan Living Communities' investment in the seminar also demonstrates the organization's commitment to providing staff all the tools they need to do their job to the fullest potential. "As the population gets older and lives longer, memory-care support is becoming more and more important, and this training is yet another way to make our programs more successful," McGlothlin says.



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