

TIMES RECORD

Methodist Village Senior Living names new CEO

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Methodist Village has named a new chief executive officer for the senior health services and independent living facility in Fort Smith.

Melissa Curry, a Fort Smith native who has served as Methodist Village's assisted living administrator since last year, was named the new CEO this week. She has studied Alzheimer's disease for more than 20 years. Harvey Leffring was the previous CEO at Methodist Village Senior Living who served until the end of August and Methodist Village Board President Phillip Bryant served as the interim until Curry's appointment.

"It's an honor for me to have been chosen to lead this special organization," Curry said.

Curry was the board's top pick out of a national search with about 30 applicants.

"We are extremely excited to make this announcement and have Melissa move into this role," Bryant said in a news release. "She is passionate about senior living and ensuring quality care for our residents and patients. With her leadership, we're confident that Methodist will continue to raise the bar when it comes to an enhanced continuum of care."

As **reported** by the Times Record in September, Curry became one of just 10 certified dementia care managers in the nation this year after having adding three national certifications to her qualifications from the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners. She is also one of just 86 certified Alzheimer's disease and dementia care trainers in the country.

Part of her role at Methodist Village will also be overseeing construction of a \$50 million expansion. A groundbreaking was held Nov. 17 for Phase I of a Life Plan Community that will include a 28-bed Assisted Living Center and a 17-bed

Alzheimer's Special Care Unit expected to be completed in early 2019. A multi-treatment center for dentistry, general practice medicine and a few specialties will be part of the expansion.

Methodist Village currently has 176 staff members to care for 116 residents in long-term care. There are 44 residents in the independent living portion of Methodist Village, which also offers rehabilitation therapy services.

"We have an amazing team at Methodist consisting of our residents, employees, board of directors and business partners, and with their help, I am looking forward to furthering our bright future together," Curry added.

Curry has provided professional and caregiver training, supportive services and awareness for Alzheimer's disease to various communities across multiple states. She is recognized as a certified Alzheimer's disease and dementia care trainer, a certified dementia practitioner, and a certified dementia care manager.

She has served as director of special events and program coordinator for the Alzheimer's Association in Fort Smith but began her career as client services director for Landmark Ministries/Legacy Heights & Memory Lane in Van Buren. She completed advanced dementia training from The Copper Ridge Institute at Johns Hopkins University and holds several other licensures, including Arkansas assisted living administrator, Alzheimer's Arkansas Support Group facilitator, and Alzheimer's Association Support Group facilitator.

Curry was a 2016 graduate of Leadership Fort Smith, and has served as a committee member for the Donald W. Reynolds Cancer Support House Wine & Roses event. She is a board member of the Noon Exchange Club, and a past member of the Alzheimer's Association Leadership Council.



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