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## Sage Eldercare in Summit staff members receive dementia certification



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By [Independent Press](#)

on August 08, 2013 at 12:27 PM



This spring, Ellisa Lee, SAGE Eldercare director of HomeCare, and Deanna Butters, SAGE Eldercare director of Spend-A-Day Adult Day Health Center have trained thirty SAGE employees so they can be better equipped to assist clients who have Alzheimer's disease or a form of dementia. Pictured here, (from left) is Ellisa Lee and Deanna Butters. For more information, call 908-273-5550 or visit [sageeldercare.org](http://sageeldercare.org).

As part of a grant from the Head Foundation, SAGE

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Eldercare has been offering prerequisite courses to help staff obtain their Certified Dementia Practitioner certification from the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners.

The courses have been led by SAGE employees, Ellisa Lee, director of HomeCare, and Deanna Butters, director of Spend-A-Day Adult Day Health Center, who have both received their Certified Dementia Practitioner certification from the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners, including trainer certification.

“We are fortunate to have received a grant from the Head Foundation so that we can offer prerequisite courses to our staff who help and support older adults with dementia. Following the training, attendees submitted applications to receive their CDP certification,” noted Ellisa Lee. “It’s very beneficial to our certified home health aides and Spend-A-Day staff employees who are often assisting clients with dementia.”

“Additionally, it’s a benefit to the families that our staff serves. Families can be assured that SAGE is providing training to its front-line caregivers so that local seniors who have dementia receive the best care possible,” added Butters.

This spring, nearly twenty SAGE Home Health Aides and staff received training and completed coursework to obtain their certification. The employees who have received their certification to date are:

Beverly Evans, Spend-A-Day Program assistant, Summit; Marie Francois, certified home health aide, Elizabeth; Angelita Garcia, certified home health aide, Elizabeth; Donna Gillens, certified home health aide, East Orange; LaReene Heath, certified home health aide, Summit; Wende Holmes, certified home health aide, Irvington; Marianne Kranz,



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director of Home Support Services and Volunteers, Fanwood; Stephanie Kresch, director of Community Relations, Short Hills; Estella Lai, finance and administration coordinator, Livingston; Brenda Lee, certified home health aide, Scotch Plains; Jenna Leone, receptionist, South Orange; Darriea Pigott, HomeCare nurse, West Orange; Diana Roscoe, Spend-A-Day activities coordinator, Union; Bonnie Schechter, Spend-A-Day recreation and outreach manager, Edison; Stacey Siddon, certified home health aide, East Orange; Pat Stelmach, GPS care navigator, Randolph; Marguerite Stewart, State Health Insurance Assistance Program volunteer, Summit; Venita Stewart, certified home health aide, Hillside; and Svetlana Vehero, certified home health aide, Summit. In addition, SAGE held a class on July 13 and an additional eleven attendees have submitted their certified dementia practitioners' applications which will be reviewed for certification within the next few weeks.

National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners was formed in 2001 by a group of professionals with varying work and personal experiences in the field of dementia care. Their goal is to promote standards of excellence in dementia and Alzheimer's education. A certification reflects a commitment on the part of the front line staff, health care professional and organization to provide a quality of care to their dementia patient(s).

SAGE Eldercare serves 7,000 people throughout Union, Essex, Morris and Somerset Counties, as well as across the United States.

For more information, call 908-273-5550 or visit [sageeldercare.org](http://sageeldercare.org).

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