


Supporting People Living with Dementia:

It's About Time to Bridge the Gap!!

G. Allen Power, MD
Eden Alternative International Conference
May 4th, 2016

fppt.com


The "Gap"



In two decades since Tom Kitwood released his seminal work, *Dementia Reconsidered*, there have been hundreds of books, papers, and seminars dedicated to "person-centred" approaches to dementia and many outgrowths thereof.

fppt.com

The "Gap"



And yet...

This philosophy continues to fall far short of reality for many, if not most people living with dementia today.

fppt.com

Bridging the Gap

Four “provocations” to provide a starting point...



fppt.com

Provocation #1:
It's all about relationships!!

It's about time
to stop rotating care partner assignments!



fppt.com

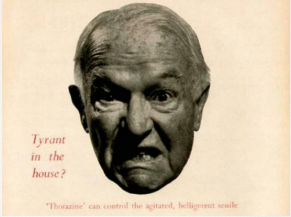
“There are only two staffing models: dedicated assignments and rotating assignments. If you rotate once a week, or once a year, you have rotating assignments.”



Daniella Greenwood
Strategy and Innovation Manager

fppt.com

Provocation #2:
It's about time to reject "BPSD"!



BPSD = "Behavioral and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia"

fppt.com

Shifting Paradigms

"90% of people living with dementia will experience a BPSD during the course of their illness."

OR

"90% of people living with dementia will find themselves in a situation in which their well-being is not adequately supported."

fppt.com

Provocation #3:
It's About Time to become inclusive!



fppt.com

“By 2015, we want there to be a million people with the know-how to help people with dementia feel understood and included in their community.”




fppt.com

Consider this...

If a *Dementia-Friendly Community* can be defined as a community that seeks to include and positively engage those who live with dementia, then the long-term care sector is on track to become the most *dementia-unfriendly* part of our society.

fppt.com

Questions for You 

If you are diagnosed with dementia, do you want to live the rest of your life in a place that only has other people with dementia living there?

fppt.com

Questions for You

Would you ever want to live in:


- The Home for People with High Blood Pressure?
- The Home for Former Nursing Home Administrators?
- The Home for ____ (a Certain Race, Religion, Ethnicity)?
- The Home for People Who Had the Same School Exam Scores?

Questions for You

Would such a place treat you like more, or less of a unique individual?

Questions for You

Do you think that having segregated living makes other residents' and families' fear and stigma greater or less?

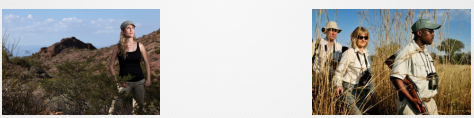
Cochrane Review 2012 

“There are no identified RCTs investigating the effects of SCUs on behavioural symptoms in dementia, and no strong evidence of benefit from the available non-RCTs. It is probably more important to implement best practice than to provide a specialized care environment.”


(<http://www.cochrane.org/CD006470/>)

fppt.com

Provocation #4
It's about time for leaders to lead!



fppt.com

Five ways to lead
(with quotes from Daniella Greenwood) 

- **Empower.** (“Most staff don’t need more training; what they need is *permission*.”)
- **Shift operations and remove systemic barriers:** “Don’t ever tell your staff that elders can get up whenever they want, and then put them in a system where that cannot happen.”
- **Honor elder rights above all.** (“Much of ‘person-centered care’ is simply bossing people around in a very individualized way.”)

fppt.com

Ways to lead (cont.)

- **Negotiate risk to support elder-directed living.** (“Challenge any survey decision that compromises the person’s rights or dignity.”)
- **Generate data, but don’t wait for it before doing the right thing.** (“The clinical outcomes were nice, but we moved to dedicated staffing because our ‘customers’ asked for and deserved it. Research doesn’t own that space—our elders do.”)

Lastly...

Don't be afraid to lay the path as you walk it!!



DrAIPower@gmail.com
