Hey That’s My Chair

A Look
At Changing The Culture of Engagement
Rosen and Lachs
“Resident to Resident Aggression in Long Term Care Facilities:”

- Attempted to characterize the spectrum of RRA With a Focus Group Study of staff and Elders who could reliably self report.
- 107 participants
- 16 Focus Groups
- Staff (11 different Job categories)
- Elders
Two Most Common

• 100% of the groups and 72% of the participants identified some form of “Verbal Abuse”, like yelling, or screaming or telling someone to “Shut Up”

• 94% of the groups and 64% of the participants discussed “Physical Abuse”, like pushing, hitting, physically threatening
Where and When

- Most Frequent in the Dining Room or Resident Rooms
- Most frequent in the afternoon
- Though it does occur throughout the day and setting.
The Challenge is Determining Why
Normal Experiences

- Suffering losses - Family and Identity
- Physical discomfort
- Frustrated (not being allowed to go)
- Treated Rudely
- Threatened
- Can’t get needs met
Triggers

- Territoriality (Hey That’s My Chair)
- Impatience (Frustration)
- Loneliness (Loss)
- Yelling (Verbal abuse rude or threatening)
- Noise
- Dementia
Hey That’s my Chair

• “They think they’re always sitting in that chair that is their chair and if somebody sits there…”

• “…they own their chairs and if somebody’s sitting there and doesn’t want to move I’ve seen one person pick up her walker… thank God at that moment I was walking by”
The Question is…. “If”

- 80% to 90% of those living in Nursing Homes are afflicted with cognitive impairment

- How much of what we do “well intentioned” sets up triggers for aggressive behavior
From the Elders Point of View

• Environment (Set Up)

• Assessment (Do we know Really Know who we’re dealing with)

• Approach (Valuing the Elder above what he/she has lost)
Smaller is Better

• Increases possibility of individualized care

• Less noise

• More opportunity for choice

• More opportunity for privacy
Getting Along

• “There is always something more pleasant to do than beat someone up”

• Mohamed Ali
Three Cards
Relationships

- Begin with assessment
- Involve all
- Foundation for nonpharmacy
Homes vs. Facilities

- Activities of Being
- Individual rhythms
- Choice and control
Simple Pleasures

• Meaning

• Highly individualized

• May depend on collaboration
Increased collaboration

- Improving our relationships with each other
- Empowering staff
- Increasing Choice and Control
References


McLean, A., (2007), Dementia care as a moral enterprise: A call for the return to the sanctity of lived time. *Alzheimer’s Care Today*, 8(4), 360-372

Power, G. Allen MD., *Dementia Beyond Drugs*, 2010 Health Professions Press


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