

New Program for Acute Care Preceptors

by Clarke Pollard, Alzheimers Support Network

On September 15th and 16th Teepa and her team conducted 2 full days of training at Naples Community Hospital, in Naples, Florida. Naples Community Healthcare System (NCH) has two hospitals totaling 640 beds and an extended health care network encompassing over 4,000 employees. As part of the NCH Brookdale Rehab Geriatrics program, NCH has become an NICHE (Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders) accredited site. This NICHE designation places NCH among only 680 hospital systems in the country that have earned this distinguished accreditation. Striving to go further and add additional levels of expertise, NCH partnered with Teepa Snow and the Positive Approach to Care (PAC) organization to offer the first ever PAC Acute Care Preceptor Certification to their employees.

The class at Naples Community Hospital (NCH) was filled with department heads, lead educators, and key personnel. This distinguished group of professionals with advanced credentials and decades of devotion to their field of practice were gathered to learn from Teepa and the Positive Approach to Care (PAC) team to improve their individual levels of expertise. Their ability to absorb these critical and difficult lessons was impressive. Their willingness to expose themselves through the hands-on, interactive style of learning was humbling to witness. Teepa trains using the adult experiential learning cycle and the philosophy that we learn through our mistakes. To be a participant in one of her certification courses demands that the learners -- no matter who they are -- put aside pride and devote themselves to the experience of learning. This leaves most individuals feeling raw and exposed. The purpose of this is to move learners beyond their standard means and methods (and how they have always done things) in order to demonstrate that there could be another approach, a more positive approach that is also more effective. This style of teaching demands a lot from the learners. It demands humility, insightfulness, dedication, and devotion. All of these elements were displayed with heartwarming intensity by everyone in the NCH class of professionals.

It is this type of training and with this level of commitment by professionals in the field that is required if a true change of culture is to occur. Everyone at the Alzheimer's Support Network is so grateful for Teepa for designing and implementing this comprehensive training and so encouraged by the leadership at Naples Community Healthcare System for accepting the challenge to strive to provide a level of unsurpassed excellence in care for people living with brain change.

Teepa and her team are just fantastic! The quality, scope and degree of the training they provide are unparalleled. Drawing from her 36 years working with people living with brain change, and her decades working within an array of acute care environments and as a consultant to major medical centers, Teepa has crafted a uniquely robust and extensive training curriculum. Unlike most training programs that are often little more than PowerPoint presentations of raw data or a collection of facts, Teepa's training protocols are designed to ingrain learning and build skills through experiential learning modalities and intensive proctored practice. Those in the class walked away with not

only new facts and a series of 'ah-ha' moments, but with the essential building blocks needed to develop advanced skills in treating someone with cognitive impairment.

Below are some comments and descriptions from the two day training session:

"Everyone who sat in the class was personally moved and became aware of the greater needs that must be addressed. This training encouraged us to meet the challenge of gaining mastery of the preceptor role and ultimately being able to deliver better care to our patients who have dementia."

--Dianne Brooklier: Director Clinical Excellence & Education, NCH

"Totally taken out of any comfort zone, this allowed me to be more mindful of the person living with dementia."

--Anne Mellene: Clinical Nurse Educator, NCH

"Teepa and her team were great to work with from start to finish. They all went above and beyond to engage our participants in the Positive Approach to Care. It was truly amazing to see our group of professionals realize there are other ways to approach the person living with dementia than medications and restraints."

**--Colleen Gross, ARNP: Geriatric Coordinator
Brookdale Geriatric Center, Naples, FL**

If your organization is interested in obtaining more information on this program, please [**contact us**](#).