Elder-Directed Community the Fast Eddie Way

Fast Eddie 007, as you might imagine from his name, is a man who likes to take matters into his own hands. He’s a man who likes – loves - to play cribbage. He’s a man who lives in Cooke House at Episcopal Church Home in St Paul, MN who thought surely there must be others in his community who like cribbage as well.

Fast Eddie, (you don’t have to say the “007” but he prefers “Fast Eddie” to his full name, Ed Boehm) enlisted the help of ECH’s Communications Director Paul Hagen to make posters – see inset - to try to get a club started. Eddie rode around in his wheel chair to the other households, common areas and adjacent assisted and independent living communities to put up the posters. According to Household Coordinator Deb Downs, Eddie had
been trying to get a cribbage club together for almost a year, but could never get enough “regulars.” A couple of new residents in Cooke House told Deb they liked cribbage so she told him, “Ed, I think it’s going to work this time.” When folks showed interest in the gathering, they were given a sign-up sheet Fast Eddie created that included questions about their interest in cribbage, contact info, and their feelings about having a “kitty.”

With more responses from the posters, there were five folks at the first gathering. The group met in Cooke House’s living room. Deb set Fast Eddie up with a special cabinet for the cribbage boards, cards, and pens and paper for keeping score. “This was serious business,” she said. The gang played for three hours and plan to meet every Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. (In case you’re in the neighborhood, and happen to like cribbage). Fast Eddie is delighted.

This is such a great example of a resident spending time doing something that is important to him as an individual and fostering community in his own home – with support from staff. This is what resident-directed life is all about.

Check out this dynamic workbook/video package written by Denise Hyde PharmD, RP. A great way to strengthen leadership in the midst of deep change. Based on Eden Principle #9: "Human growth should never be separated from human life" Denise has developed the GROWTH model to help individuals, teams, elders and their organizations embrace change and plan actions. The workbook springboards off the video of Dr. William Thomas as he tells the story of “The Tiger’s Whisker” (video included). You’ll find theory, as well as exercises for discussion and action as you move your team through this GROWTH model. Visit www.culturechangenow.com

Friday May 20, 2011

Topic: Nurse Competencies in LTC Culture Change

Guest: Joanne Rader and Polly Youngren

In 2010, the Pioneer Network and the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing together developed ten competencies for nurses to support changing culture in long term care settings. Our two guests who were involved in the development of the ten competencies will explain each competency as well as their history, use and future.

The hour-long Conversations with Carmen webcast is an educational talk show where you can join in the conversation by asking questions of Carmen and her guests. Webcasts are held the third Friday of every month at noon Mountain time (11am Pacific, 1 pm Central, 2pm Eastern). Certificates of participation will be available to participants as well as handouts for each show.

The $99 fee is per site, so get as many folks as you can together and be ready to be inspired and informed! For more info: http://www.culturechangenow.com/webinar-carmen.html or call our office: 414-258-3649.

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