CERTIFIED DEMENTIA PRACTITIONER

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PERSONAL STATEMENT

Alzheimer's disease and dementia has personally impacted my life. My mother was diagnosed in 2007 with dementia of the Alzheimer's type and vascular dementia, and I had the honor and privilege of being her full time care giver until she passed away in December 2014. I immersed myself in learning as much as I could about Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia: I used my graduate studies in public health as an opportunity to engage in formal education and research, but I also took advantage of trainings and education opportunities available to me, including courses and workshops in caregiving. I was employed as a caregiver through the Wisconsin Department of Health Services IRIS program, and then obtained employment as director of operations of a private, independent home care agency. I have also been an active volunteer with Golden Living Centers—Three Oaks, providing over 150 hours of activities and companionship care in the Alzheimer's Care Unit. In memory and honor of my mother, together with my family I founded a new non-profit organization serving the Marshfield area with the mission to raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease and dementia, to support individuals and families experiencing dementia, and to lead the initiative to make Marshfield the next dementia-friendly community in Wisconsin.

QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS

- Nationally certified as a dementia practitioner by the National Council of Dementia Practitioners
- Master's in Public Health, with concentration in health education and geriatric health (Graduating August 2016).
- Extensive knowledge of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia; understanding of disease process and symptoms for different forms of dementia
- Understanding of best care practices, communication strategies, and approaches for managing challenging behaviors related to Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia
- Experience in developing and maintaining therapeutic environments specific to Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia
- Experience and training in developing and facilitating activities programs, both individual and group, for persons with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia
- Over 8 years of experience in dementia care and personal caregiving
- Over 5 years of experience in professional health care, including patient education, quality improvement, patient safety, and patient experience
- Over 6 years of experience in administration and management, with supervisory experience in both health care and home health
- Extensive knowledge and experience in health literacy, health risk and crisis communication, and health education
- Experience in conducting assessments and interviews
- Experience in human resources, including hiring and training staff, as well as volunteer management
- Experience in policy writing, review, and documentation management
- Excellent written communication skills with ability to manage data and produce meaningful reports
- Excellent public speaking skills with experience in developing and leading classes, workshops, inservices, trainings, and support groups
- Extensive knowledge and access to information and resources within the community
- Recognized as a community leader, resource, and expert in Alzheimer's disease and dementia

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EDUCATION

Master of Public Health (MPH)

August, 2016 (expected)

Concentration: Health Education and Geriatric Health

Benedictine University, Lisle, IL

Graduate Certificate: Health Risk and Crisis Communication

December, 2010

Concentration: Health Communication, Health Literacy, Geriatric Health

Chapman University, Orange, CA

B.A. English December, 1993

Concentration: Composition, Rhetoric and Applied Writing

University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI

RELATED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Dementia Generalist for Family and Friends

March 2016

Wisconsin Dementia Care Project University of Wisconsin—Oshkosh

Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Care Seminar November 2015

National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners

Dementia Generalist for Community Members (Train-the-Trainer)

October 2015

Wisconsin Dementia Care Project University of Wisconsin—Oshkosh

Dementia Generalist for Healthcare Providers October 2015

Wisconsin Dementia Care Project University of Wisconsin—Oshkosh

Dementia Crisis Response February 2015

Wisconsin Dementia Care Project University of Wisconsin—Oshkosh

The Basics: Memory Loss, Dementia and Alzheimer's September 2015

Alzheimer's Association (online training)

Living with Alzheimer's: For Caregivers September 2015

Alzheimer's Association (online training)

Additional Trainings

Health Literacy and Public Health (Public Health Training Center), Plain Language Online Training (National Institutes of Health), Addressing Health Literacy and Cultural Competency, and Limited English Proficiency (Health Resources and Services Administration), Bringing Health to Life: Health Literacy (Alabama Medicaid Agency), Assessing Health Literacy in Clinical Practice (Continuing Education).

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WORK EXPERIENCE

Director of Operations January 2015 to present

Marshfield Senior Services, Inc.

Marshfield, WI

Executive Director and Founder (volunteer)

April 2015 to present

Marshfield Area Purple Angels, Inc.

Marshfield, WI

Personal Care Worker April 2013 to December 2014

Wisconsin Department of Health Services – IRIS Program

Marshfield, WI

Personal Care Worker June 2010 to April 2013

Private

Marshfield, WI

Health Communications Specialist January 2005 to June 2010

Marshfield Clinic Marshfield, WI

Principal Consultant/Owner September 2001 to October 2015

Advantage Consulting Services

Marshfield, WI

Americorps Volunteer July 1999 to September 2001

Save Our Neighborhood Community Organization

Chicago, IL

REFERENCES

Jerry Burlingame 715-387-8004

Marshfield Senior Services

Deb Niemi 715-613-1089

Former Director of Alzheimer's Care Unit

Golden Living Centers - Three Oaks

Dana Decker 715-389-66463

Executive Director

Golden Living Centers – Three Oaks

Kim Schmidt 715-389-6000 ext. 6461

Activities Director

Golden Living Centers - Three Oaks

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PRESENTATIONS

Does Higher Patient Engagement Translate to a Better Patient Experience (Keynote) Health Care Education Association, Cincinnati, OH	October, 15, 2015
Health Communication Strategies to Enhance the Patient Experience (Workshop) Health Care Education Association, Cincinnati, OH	October, 15, 2015
Hospice: Family Caregiving Panel Ministry Home Care Hospice, Marshfield, WI	June 2015
An Analysis of Falls-Related Mortality among Elderly in Wood County, Wisconsin Research Symposium, Benedictine University, Lisle, IL	May 17, 2014
Are Health Education Specialists Willing to Conduct Rapid HIV Testing? Society for Public Health Education, Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD	March 20, 2014
Keynote - From Understanding to Action: An Overview of the Connection between Health Literacy, Patient Engagement, and Adherence Clear Health Communication Program, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH	April 26, 2012
Engaging Strategies: Improving Adherence through Activation Clear Health Communication Program, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH	April 26, 2012
Panel Discussion: Medication Adherence, Tele-Health Coaching for Wellness, Adherence Strategies for Case Management of Patients with CHF Clear Health Communication Program, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH	April 26, 2012
Improving Health Care Material Readability Pfizer Visiting Professorship, Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee, WI	May 24, 2011
15 Ways to Influence Health Care Policy and Advance the Health Literacy Agenda Wisconsin Literacy, 2011 Health Literacy Summit, Madison, WI	April 13, 2011
Clear Communication: Helping Your Patient's Caregivers to Understand Grand Rounds: Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI	August 27, 2010
Collaborative Partnerships between Healthcare Organizations and Literacy Councils 4th Wisconsin Health Information Outreach Summit, Wausau, WI	August 11, 2010
Impact Case Studies in Health Literacy and Patient Activation Krames Patient Education, Webinar	July 29, 2010
Readability and Design Wisconsin Literacy/Northern Wisconsin Area Health Education Center, Northeast Wisconsin Health Literacy Conference, Green Bay, WI	May 18, 2010
Improving Readability with Appropriate Design: 7 Critical Elements Institute for Healthcare Advancement, Ninth Annual Health Literacy Conference, Irvine, CA	May 7-8, 2010
Strategies to Improve Communication & Empower Patients Grand Rounds: Marshfield Clinic – Merrill Center, Merrill, WI	April 9, 2010
Health Literacy and Older Adults Marshfield Clinic, Practical Strategies in the Management of the Geriatric Patient, Wausau, WI	March 12, 2010
Impact Case Studies in Health Literacy and Patient Activation Institute for Healthcare Improvement, 21st Annual National Forum, Orlando, FL	December 8, 2009
"Questions Are the Answer" to Improving Health Literacy and Patient Activation (poster) Institute for Healthcare Improvement, 21st Annual National Forum, Orlando, FL	December 7-9, 2009

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PRESENTATIONS (continued)	
Strategies to Improve Communication & Empower Patients Grand Rounds: Marshfield Clinic, Marshfield, WI	October 23, 2009
"Questions Are the Answer" to Improving Health Literacy and Patient Safety (poster) Wisconsin Quality and Safety Forum, Wisconsin Dells, WI	October 19-20, 2009
Using Readability Formulas for Evaluation and Training Institute for Healthcare Advancement, Eighth Annual Health Literacy Conference, Irvine, CA	May 8, 2009
Improving Readability by Design Wisconsin Literacy, 2009 Health Literacy Summit, Madison, WI	April 1, 2009
The Connection between Health Literacy and Patient Activation Wisconsin Literacy, 2009 Health Literacy Summit, Madison, WI	April 1, 2009
Hands-On Health Literacy—"Questions Are the Answer" Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), 2008 Annual Conference: Promoting Quality — Partnering for Change, Washington, D.C.	September 9, 2008
Practitioners' Panel Discussion Wisconsin Literacy, 2007 Health Literacy Summit, Wisconsin Dells, WI	June 21, 2007
RESEARCH	
Child Development, Parental Rights, and LGBT Issues Research Assistant for Curtis W. Branch, Ph.D., Columbia University and Veterans Administration New Jersey Health Care System	February – December, 2014
PROMISE (Promoting Research on Methods In Screening Expertise) Research Assistant, Walden University	March – December, 2013
The Role of Pharmacist Evaluation in Activation of Adult Asthma Patients Co-Investigator, Marshfield Clinic and Institute for Clinical and Translational Research	May 2009 – June 2010
Critical Keys: Improving Health Literacy Communication Principle Investigator, Marshfield Clinic, Verizon Education Grant	July 2009 – June 2010
"Parent Satisfaction" in Pediatric Resident Continuity Clinic Technology Assistant, Marshfield Clinic, Resident Research and Education	September 2006 – November 2007
Primary Prevention Pilot Principle Investigator, Marshfield Clinic, Special Projects Fund	October 2006 – September 2007
PROJECTS	
Purple Angels Memory Café (Monthly Community Event) Marshfield Area Purple Angels	2015 to present
Dementia Friendly Marshfield (Community Awareness Campaign) Marshfield Area Purple Angels	2015 to present
End of Live Survival Guide, Blog	2014 to present
Public Health and Community Education, Blog	2012 to present
Health Literacy Curriculum for Adult Basic Education and English Language Learners Literacy Council of Wood County, Mid-State Technical College, Ministry Health Care	2009
Health Literacy Toolkit for Health Care Providers, Marshfield Clinic	2007
"Quality in Healthcare" Public Reporting Website, Marshfield Clinic	2006

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PUBLICATIONS, ARTICLES & CONTRIBUTIONS	
Meaningful Use Requirements for Patient Education (Whitepaper) Krames Patient Education/FierceHealthcare	July 2011
Report to Congress: "Aligning Incentives in Medicare" Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC)	June 2010
Taking Patient Education to a New Level (Whitepaper) Krames Patient Education/FierceHealthcare	March 2010
For Easy-to-Read Handouts, Take Layout into Account Health Care Benchmarks and Quality Improvement	October 2009
"Questions Are the Answer" to Improving Health Literacy and Patient Activation Marshfield Clinic	October 2009
Impact Case Studies and Knowledge Transfer Case Studies: "Questions Are the Answer" Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)	September 2009
15 Resources Explain Best Design Practice Hospital Peer Review	September 2009
It Takes Two! Make Written Material Easy to Read and Understandable Patient Education Management	December 2008
Resources for Producing Clear Language Documents Patient Education Management	December 2008
A tale of Two Handouts: Applying Health Literacy Recommendations to Improve Readability of Printed Patient Education Materials Marshfield Clinic	June 2007
AWARDS	
Research Mentor, Certificate of Appreciation Marshfield Clinic, Resident Research and Education	June 2010
MEMBERSHIPS	
Member, Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA)	2015—Present
Member, Purple Angels Ambassadors	2015—Present
Member, Student Advisory Panel, Benedictine University – MPH program	2014—Present
Member, Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE)	2013—Present
Member, American Public Health Association (APHA)	2012—Present
Member, Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA) Chair, WPHA Marketing and Communications Committee	2012—Present
Member, Institute for Wisconsin's Health/Wisconsin Public Health Practice-Based Research Network	2012—Present
Member, Institute for Clinical and Translational Research (ICTR)	2009—Present
Member, Health Literacy and Education Focus Area Strategic Team, Healthiest Wisconsin 2020, Wisconsin Department of Health and Human Services	2009—Present

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