Hearing the Voice of Persons with Dementia

GUIDES:

Sonya Barsness is a Masters-prepared Gerontologist with nearly 20 years of experience in aging, primarily in dementia care and long-term care. Sonya has served elders and their care partners in assisted living, nursing homes, and in home and community-based settings. Her additional experience is in education, programming, policy, and research related to long-term care, dementia care, and person-centered care. Sonya’s work is grounded in a person-centered philosophy that honors the unique needs, preferences, and goals of elders through core values of choice, dignity, respect, self-determination, and purposeful living. Sonya was a co-developer with Karen Stobbe of CMS’ Hand in Hand training toolkit which was distributed to every nursing home in the country. She is also adjunct faculty at Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Gerontology. Sonya’s passion and vocation is changing the culture of aging, to include promoting personhood in dementia care.

Karen Stobbe was working as an actress, director, writer and instructor of theatre when her Dad was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease. Her life has taken on a new focus and new meaning in combining the knowledge of her two worlds into one life work. Karen wrote and performs in a two-person performance (with her husband, Mondy) entitled Sometimes Ya Gotta Laugh, which takes you on a fast paced journey through the world of caregiving; the laughter and the tears. She has also written a book by the same name, which is in its third printing. Karen has developed a 6-week training program called in the Moment, which uses creativity, improvisation and theatre as training tools. She was formerly the Director of Education and Outreach for Pioneer Network and was a co-developer with Sonya Barsness of CMS’ Hand in Hand Training Program. Karen has performed over 600 trainings in storytelling, improvisation, caring for persons with dementia and the importance of laughter. Karen’s Mom, Virginia, who was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s a year after her Dad passed away, lives with Karen, her husband, Mondy, daughter Grace in Black Mountain, North Carolina along with their pets, Ginger, Gus, Pickle and Kiwi.

ON the ROAD
with Pioneer Network

Boise, Idaho
November 6

Boise State University Student Union Building
Jordan Ballroom, 1910 University Drive, Boise, Idaho
(Event Parking available in the Lincoln Garage)
Register online: www.PioneerNetwork.net/Events/OnTheRoad
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Hearing the Voice of Persons with Dementia

Do persons with dementia have a voice? What is it saying and how are we responding to it? Some people say that person-centered care is not possible for people who live with dementia, others say that we started person-centered care with people who live with dementia — what do you say? All we know is that we’re tired of hearing that “those people” can’t make decisions or choices so... please join us for this energetic and thought provoking session. Persons with dementia are people living with purpose. We can support persons with dementia in living purposefully by learning how to hear their unique voices. When we hear their voice, we can then honor their choice and help to fulfill their needs. In this session we will navigate our way through the values, concrete approaches, and age-old questions about honoring the choice of people who live with dementia wherever they live. We’ll use the five human needs of identity, inclusion, attachment, comfort, and occupation as a lens to guide our view. Let’s see what values and principles we hold in common, share ideas for solid take home approaches and honor each other’s challenges and milestones.

Thursday, November 6, 2014
8:30 a.m.: Registrant Check in and Onsite Registration
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.: Program
Location: Boise State University Student Union Building
Jordan Ballroom, 1910 University Drive, Boise, Idaho
(Event Parking available in the Lincoln Garage)

Register online: www.PioneerNetwork.net/Events/OnTheRoad
Registration Fee: $139 for providers; $59 for residents and their families
Application has been made for continuing education credits for administrators, nurses, social workers, activity professionals and dietitians. The fee for CEUs if approved and desired by registrant is $15.

I am so excited about all of the ideas and information that I’m taking home with me!

Speakers presented the information in a clear, informative, engaging manner.

Presented in collaboration with Idaho ICARE, BSU Center for the Study of Aging, and the IDHW Bureau of Facility Standards.