

August 2023

# Assisted Living Matters

## Tips & Tools for Assisted Living Professionals

*Assisted Living Matters* provides updates on the information you need to know, practical strategies to help you and your team, valuable tools and resources, and innovative tips and suggestions.

### LeadingAge Wisconsin Launches the Dementia Care Designation System™

Propelled by the LeadingAge Wisconsin philosophy aimed at “better services for better aging,” a team of skilled and practicing inter-disciplinary senior living professionals came together to build an experience-based facility assessment tool with the goal of increasing accountability and transparency among dementia care providers. Through these efforts, the Dementia Care Designation System™ was developed. The assessment is comprised of 5 modules that, in collaboration, contribute to a holistically positive and supportive care environment for persons living with dementia and their families: (1) Supportive and Therapeutic Environment; (2) Information, Education and Support; (3) Assessment and Care Planning; (4) Life Enrichment; and (5) Workforce.

The assessment is designed as a provider-completed tool for any provider within the aging services care continuum. Completing the assessment is as simple as checking each service that your facility has or offers. A final Facility Dementia Care Score will calculate within a range designating the level of dementia care provided by the facility. The levels of care are:

- **Dementia Supportive™**: the care community knows, understands, and supports persons living with dementia.
- **Dementia Capable™**: the care community provides specific approaches that support and care for persons living with dementia.
- **Dementia Specific™**: the care community is dedicated to a holistic philosophy that embraces and fosters individualized dementia-centered care and support.

After successful participation in the assessment and based on your score, LeadingAge Wisconsin will provide your facility with a certificate identifying the level of dementia care designated and a marketing toolkit to help display your achievement. Where a facility scores within the care range may reasonably be affected by where they exist within the care continuum (varying from independent senior living, to assisted living, to skilled nursing), their service mission, and targeted service population.

All scores within the designation system hold value and merit regardless of the level designated. For the facility’s benefit, this tool is intended to both highlight the dementia care services in which a facility might be excelling along with the areas in which a facility could

grow and expand. For consumers, families, and the greater community, this assessment strives for excellence within the aging services industry to best support and provide the utmost quality of care to individuals living with dementia.

The Dementia Care Designation System™ presents an opportunity to raise the standard for what “dementia care community” means when a provider is advertised as such to the public. The ultimate goal of this tool is to offer a better means to objectively measure the reasons underlying why a facility can market their supports and services as quality dementia care with a more transparent and accountable system for consumers and families to trust.

With the generous sponsorship of HealthDirect Pharmacy Services, LeadingAge Wisconsin is able to provide this unprecedented self-assessment tool (valued at no less than \$1000 per facility) at no charge to LeadingAge Wisconsin members and subscribers as a way to substantiate, document, and improve the level of dementia care each of their facilities provides.

LeadingAge Wisconsin is incrementally inviting member and subscriber organizations to complete the assessment for each facility. Your organization can expect to see more information about our new Dementia Care Designation System™ in the weeks ahead.

For more information, please contact [Janice Mashak](#), Vice President of Member Services and Innovation.

## Echelon Featured Video



Silent Beats

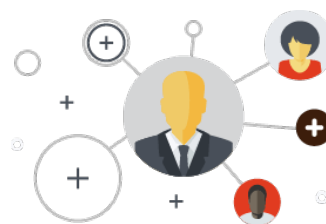
[Silent Beats](#) is a powerful video to get you and your team thinking and talking about inherent bias, perceptions, and realities.

## Visit Our Website



### Echelon Featured Tool

Did you know on both the CBRF Echelon website and on the RCAC Echelon website, there are menu and recipe ideas that have been shared by your foodservice peers throughout Echelon. On the Echelon site, click on Foodservice: Menus & Recipes and browse the collection. Then help us continue building this site by emailing your residents' favorite menus and recipes to Sarah Paterson at [SPaterson@LeadingAgeWI.org](mailto:SPaterson@LeadingAgeWI.org).



### Echelon Practical Tip

Are you looking for a quick and simple way to enhance the efficiency and performance of your team members? Ask your teams and employees one simple question, "What do you need to do your job better?" You might be surprised with the answers you hear.

If you have some true ah-ha moments, please send them via email to [Janice Mashak](#).

## Winning Strategies 2023

Register

- Are you looking to grow your career?
- Could you use practical tips and strategies to organize and simplify your many responsibilities?
- Would you like to network with like-minded peer professionals who “get” your struggles and share your ideas for the future?
- Do you enjoy experiential learning where you play a part in the learnings of the group?
- Is it time you take a break and get away to recharge, refresh, and refocus?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, our annual *Winning Strategies* meeting is for you.

The 2023 *Winning Strategies* meeting is scheduled as follows:

October 26-27, 2023  
 Green Lake Conference Center  
 W2511 WI-23  
 Green Lake, WI 54941  
 Phone: (920) 294-3323

We invite you to join us October 26-27 at the Green Lake Conference Center for our 2023 *Winning Strategies* Meeting. Assisted living professionals from across the state will come together to network, learn, share, discuss, and recharge.

The meeting will begin at 12:00 p.m. with lunch on Thursday, October 26 and the meeting will end with lunch at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, October 27.

This will be an experiential learning event that will get you involved as we:

- Explore new ideas
- Share our struggles and successes
- Participate in real-time problem solving activities
- Discuss helpful tools and resources
- Develop a strategy for work/life integration
- Talk in real time about our goals for professional development
- Learn about what our team members want/need to be successful
- Network, network, network
- Refresh and recharge

This will be an interactive meeting where you will shape the direction and be part of the outcome. You will return to your organization with new ideas, new tools, new skills, a renewed sense of purpose, and a strong support network of peers who share your passion for excellence in assisted living.

**Fees:** The cost to participate in this *Winning Strategies* Meeting is \$150 per person. This fee covers your participation in the meeting, lunch and dinner on Thursday, October 26th, breakfast and lunch on Friday, October 27th, and all break refreshments.

**Overnight Accommodations:** You will be responsible for booking and paying for your overnight accommodations at Green Lake Conference Center. We have a block of rooms for the nights of October 25th and October 26th. **Please call and reserve your room prior to Friday, August 25, 2023: 920-294-3323. Room rates start at \$108.**

We invite and encourage you to bring with you to this meeting interactive games to enhance our networking activities for the evening of Thursday, October 26th. We will not allow Cards Against Humanity.

## Voice Your Family Care Concerns Today

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is renewing the [Family Care and Family Care Partnership waivers](#) and is actively seeking your feedback.

Now is your opportunity to share concerns your organization faces with Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) you contract with.

You are encouraged to share examples such as unnecessary and/or duplicative services, case manager and nurse job-duty concerns, contract concerns, etc.

Your feedback is necessary in order to make positive changes to the process, thus improving the way in which we are able to deliver care to our residents.

**Please email today!**

Please email your comments and concerns to: [DHSDMSFCRenewal@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSDMSFCRenewal@dhs.wisconsin.gov).

We ask that you also cc either [Robin Wolzenburg](#) or [Rene Eastman](#) as well so we can collectively view our members' feedback and enhance our advocacy efforts on this issue.

Thank you for taking the time to offer feedback on this important issue.

## Clinical Tip of the Month

Influenza, RSV and COVID-19 vaccines are coming soon. How is your assisted living community working to prepare your residents and staff? Things to consider:

1. **Start planning now** - meet with your leadership team and come up with a plan on how you will roll out the vaccines and what the process should look it.
2. **Secure the vaccines**- work with your local public health, local pharmacy, or long-term care pharmacy partner to make a plan to meet the vaccine needs of your residents and staff.
3. **Start educating** - utilize various resources (CDC, NIH, DHS, LeadingAge, local public health, etc.) Education should be continuous
4. **Obtain consents** - ensure you have signed consents for each vaccine to be administered.
5. **Host vaccine clinics** - offer several opportunities for your staff and residents to get vaccinated. Get creative to encourage participation.
6. **Follow up** - continue to check in with those who may have declined initially. Continue to offer education to vaccine-hesitant staff and residents. Document your efforts.
7. **Reach out for support** - if needed, don't hesitate to reach out to your local public health for assistance, support or questions. LeadingAge Wisconsin staff are available as resources as well.

## Cost Savings Tip of the Month

Have you evaluated your dining program recently?

**Value First** is running the 5-Star Sweepstakes and your organization could win one of five \$10,000 prizes. What would you do with \$10,000? Maybe replace aging equipment or throw a staff/resident party. The choice will be yours if you win one of the five grand prizes.

Participating in the drawing is simple:

- Members currently utilizing the Value First food program can enter by submitting the online form at: [www.value1stonline.com/drawing-form-page](http://www.value1stonline.com/drawing-form-page).
- Members that are not currently utilizing the Value First food program can enter by submitting the online form at [www.value1stonline.com/drawing-form-page](http://www.value1stonline.com/drawing-form-page) along with submitting one month of food purchase data so Value First can run a cost analysis.

No purchase is necessary. You can find a link to the contest rules at [www.value1stonline.com/drawing-form-page](http://www.value1stonline.com/drawing-form-page).

If you have questions on participating, please reach out to Denise May, [dmay@leadingagewi.org](mailto:dmay@leadingagewi.org) or 608-609-6964. All entries and required data for new members must be received between July 1, 2023 and October 31, 2023.



This Issue of *Assisted Living Matters* Is Sponsored By:



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### Is Echelon for You?

Through Echelon, LeadingAge Wisconsin provides a voluntary system of tools, guidelines, practices, educational opportunities, peer support, consulting services, facilitated discussions, and network meetings to enhance your quality improvement efforts. Our quest for quality is driven by our firm belief that your residents deserve excellent care and services.

Learn more about Echelon [here](#). Access the Echelon Participation and Attestation form [here](#).

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Contact  
Us



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