

# Dementia Care Guiding Principles

The Wisconsin Dementia Care Guiding Principles are focused on providing quality of life, person-centered care and support to all people living with dementia and creating a dementia-capable Wisconsin. All of the guiding principles are equally important. None of the specific principles are intended to stand alone or take precedence over the others. Rather, the ten principles have been developed to serve as an integrated whole with the collective purpose of facilitating a dementia friendly environment in Wisconsin. The ten Wisconsin Dementia Care Guiding Principles are arranged in a chronological order to align with the typical progression that people living with dementia and their caregivers may experience with the progression of dementia.

**Guiding Principle #1:** Dementia-related education, information, guidance and resources for community members should be available and easily accessible.

**Guiding Principle #2:** All individuals should have access to early screening for dementia, followed by accurate assessment and diagnosis by a physician, and prompt appropriate referral for services.

**Guiding Principle #3:** People living with dementia should have the highest degree of autonomy and choice possible.

**Guiding Principle #4:** People living with dementia should have access to person-centered, culturally-competent care and services that help maintain their physical health, mental health and well-being.

**Guiding Principle #5:** People living with dementia should have opportunities to engage in meaningful activities.

**Guiding Principle #6:** People living with dementia, their families and those caring for them should have access to a coordinated service-delivery system.

**Guiding Principle #7:** People caring for individuals living with dementia should have the aptitude, knowledge, skills and abilities to provide needed support in an effective manner.

**Guiding Principle #8:** Caregivers should understand that behaviors exhibited by people living with dementia may represent unmet needs and will address those needs appropriately.

**Guiding Principle #9:** The rights of people living with dementia, their families and caregivers should be recognized and protected.

**Guiding Principle #10:** The environment and living space for people living with dementia should be adapted to promote quality of life, the comforts of home and safety.