‘Just Dance with Me’
The Power of Relationships in LIVING

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PiDC
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In nursing homes, assisted living facilities and adult day programs we supply our elders with the necessities of survival, but they are too often deprived of the necessities of LIVING.

(Fagan, 2003, p. 127)
Being Me

Having Fun

Being With

Growing and Developing

Making a Difference

Seeking Freedom

Finding Balance
Seeking Freedom
Finding Balance
Making a Difference
Growing & Developing
Having Fun
Personal Reflection

• What would YOU need to LIVE well – to flourish – with dementia?

• Use the post-it notes on your table to write down what you would need to have a good life with dementia

• Post your ideas in the centre of your table
“Many think it is the disease that causes us to withdraw, and to some extent I believe this is true. But, for many of us, we withdraw because we are not provided with meaningful opportunities that allow us to continue to experience joy, purpose, and engagement in life.”

Person living with Dementia
Researchers in Collective Disruption

Sherry Dupuis, Christine Jonas-Simpson, Julia Gray, Gail Mitchell, and Pia Kontos
Relational Context

Space/Physical Environment

Our Bodies

I Ideas/Values

People

Objects

Higher Being(s)

Time

Animals/Other Living Beings

Experiences IN Relationship
Adapted HATCh Model, Quality Partners of Rhode Island (2006)
Adapted HATCh Model, Quality Partners of Rhode Island (2006)
Small Group Reflection #1

• On your tables, locate the handout entitled ‘Small Group Reflection #1’
• Choose a note taker
• Together identify and document specific threats to LIVING for persons with dementia that you know of or have witnessed/experienced at different relational layers (i.e., individual, organisational, community, political, broader cultural)
• After 10 minutes, we will share some examples with the larger group
Individual Layer Threats to LIVING

- Assumptions/misunderstandings
- Task focus
- Focus on disease, symptoms and bodies
- Attitudes → “it’s not my job”
- Sense of powerlessness
Organisational Layer Threats to LIVING

• A risk averse culture
• Focus on routines and structured activities
• Care practices that prioritise physical care
• No opportunities for relationship building
• Institutional physical environments
• Traditional organisational structures
• Reliance on quality indicators misaligned with supporting LIVING
Community Threats to LIVING

• Community prejudice
  – Ageism
  – Stigma
  – Fear
• Lack of meaningful activities and opportunities in the community
• Lack of access to community programs and services
• Unwelcoming environments
Systemic/Political Layer Threats

• Measurement tools/indicators that focus on deficit, disease and physical care
• Policies misaligned with supporting LIVING
• Compliance officers/regulators with a focus on physical care and clinical treatments
• Lack of incentives for organisations to change
• Funding models that privilege managing bodies over supporting LIVING
There is hope. We can all make a difference. It starts with you.
Challenging the Culture

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=saRWpSqQpPA
"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtfull commited people can change the world, indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

—Margret Mead—
If you can dream it, you can do it.
- Walt Disney
Small Group Reflection #2

• On your tables, locate the handout entitled ‘Small Group Reflection #2’

• Choose a note taker

• Together identify specific things that YOU can do to support LIVING for persons with dementia
  
  ➢ What changes would need to happen to support LIVING and how can you work to facilitate those changes?
  
  ➢ What possibilities do you envision?

• After 10 minutes, we will share some examples with the larger group
Life is for LIVING
So DANCE
You and me, our life is driftin' along

Watchin' the world as it's singin' its song

High above, someone is callin' to me

Life is for livin' and livin' is free
You to me, are like the sun in the sky

See how you fly, you have wings of your own

You and me, our love will last without end

Ride with the wind, won't you follow me home?
Turn around and see the circles we spin

And we're takin' our chances on where we begin

Up above, the rain is fallin' on me

Life is for livin' and livin' is free
You to me, are like the sun in the sky

See how you fly, you have wings of your own

You and me, our love will last without end

Ride with the wind, won't you follow me home?
Takin' up time tryin' to write a line till the break of day

Given a sign, can you make it rhyme, tell me what to say?

Makin' it fine, can you ease my mind, help me drift away?
Turn around and see the circles we spin
Takin' our chances on where we begin
Up above, the rain is fallin' on me
Life is for livin' and livin' is free
You to me, are like the sun in the sky

See how you fly, you have wings of your own

You and me, our love will last without end

Ride with the wind, won't you follow me home
YOU can do it! WE can do it!
Create a relational culture of LIVING
Thank You!

Life is for Livin’ by Barclay James Harvest
from the Album Turn of the Tide (1981)

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References


