



# Welcome to LTCCC's Monthly Webinar

## Virtual Meeting Tips

- Submit **questions in the Q&A** at the bottom of Zoom screen
- Use chat at the bottom of Zoom screen for **comments** and conversation
- If you are having technical issues, please let us know in the chat and we will do our best to assist you

## New at NursingHome411

- Hudson Valley Update: Watch the June Program!
- Senior Care Policy Brief: Follow the Money
- LTCCC Data Alert: Average Facility Operating Over 40% Short of Expected RN Staffing (Q4 2024)
- May Webinar: The Historic Impact of COVID-19 on Nursing Homes and the Failed Response



Sign up for LTCCC alerts using QR code above or visit [nursinghome411.org/join](https://nursinghome411.org/join).

For materials from today's webinar, visit [nursinghome411.org/webinar-dementia-care-community](https://nursinghome411.org/webinar-dementia-care-community).

# + Today's Webinar:



LTCCC WEBINAR

## Dementia Care in the Community

Tuesday, June 17, 2025 | 1-2PM ET



Join LTCCC's June webinar introducing our **Dementia Care in the Community** project. Learn about the challenges individuals with dementia face at home and in assisted living, and how our new curated fact sheets can help families, advocates, and caregivers support quality, person-centered care. We'll share key takeaways from the project and walk through how to access and use the materials.

**For materials from today's webinar, visit**  
**[nursinghome411.org/webinar-dementia-care-community](https://nursinghome411.org/webinar-dementia-care-community).**

## + The Long Term Care Community Coalition

- **LTCCC:** Nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to improving care & quality of life for the elderly & adult disabled in long-term care (LTC).
- **Our focus:** People who live in nursing homes & assisted living.
- **What we do:**
  - Policy analysis and systems advocacy;
  - Data resources & analyses;
  - Education of consumers and families, LTC ombudsmen, and other stakeholders;
  - Home of two local LTC Ombudsman Programs in the Hudson Valley.
- **Website:** [www.nursinghome411.org](http://www.nursinghome411.org).

# + Goals of This Project

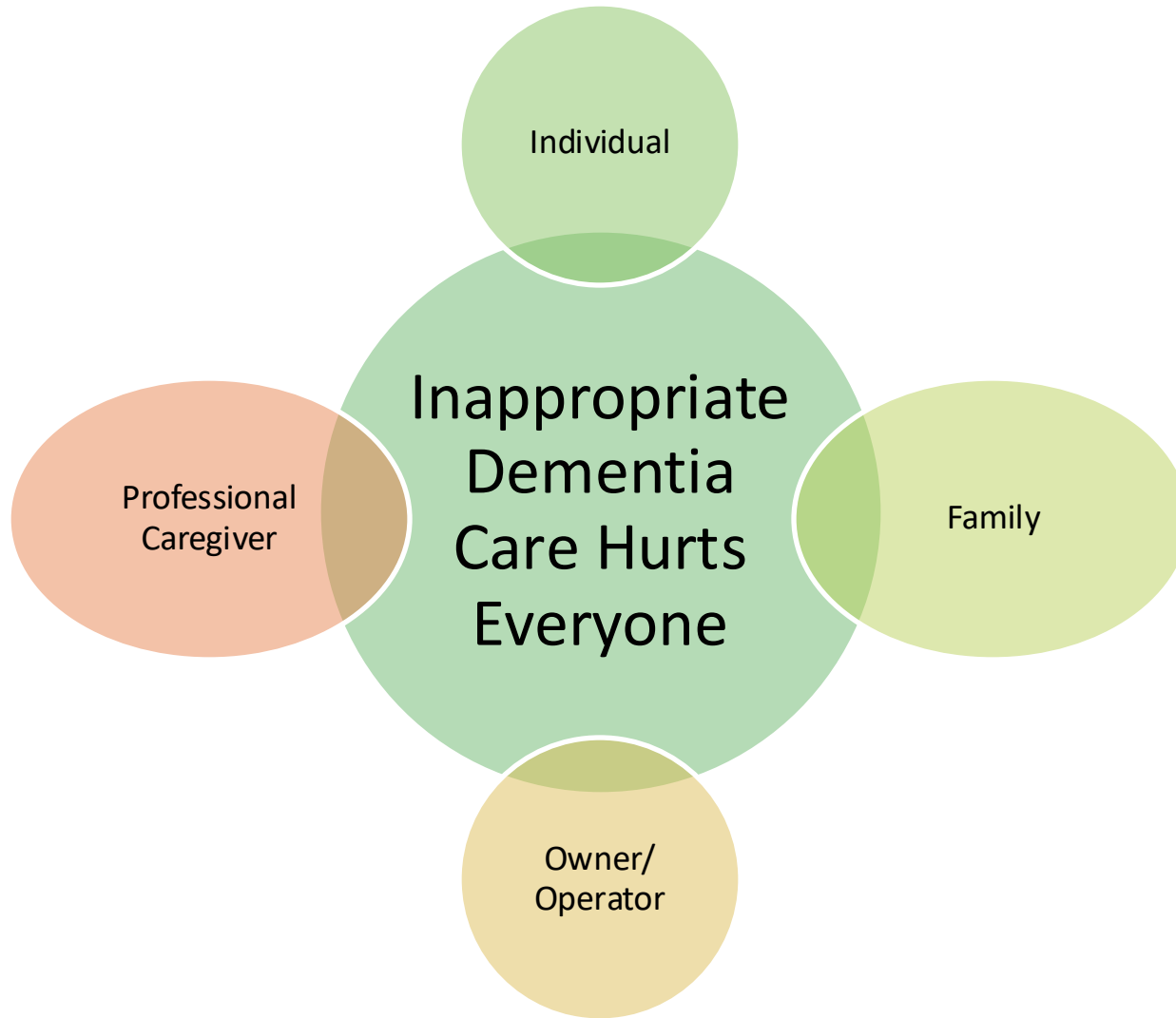
Bring **dignity, comfort, and best practices** to dementia care in community settings.

Empower families and caregivers with tools to advocate for and implement high-quality care.

Thank you to the Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation for its generous support of this work!

## + Why Is This Project Needed?

- A growing number of individuals with dementia live and receive services outside nursing homes – in assisted living or their private home.
- Unlike nursing homes, these settings lack formal dementia care standards.
- As a result, too often, individuals experience gaps in their care or inappropriate care.
- This can lead to...
  - Unaddressed emotional and clinical needs,
  - Emotional distress,
  - Avoidable pain, and
  - The use of dangerous antipsychotic and other psychotropic drugs to control the behavioral “symptoms” of dementia.





## Consequently...



# + Why This Matters to People Living with Dementia

## Living with Dignity and Compassion

- People with dementia have **unique ways of expressing pain, discomfort, or fear.**
- Too often, what the individual is responding to or trying to express is misunderstood.
- Poor care can result in **unnecessary suffering**, loss of quality of life, and exacerbate cognitive decline.

**Behavior =  
Communication**





# Why It Matters to Families

## Families Need Support and Guidance

- Families are often left to navigate dementia care **without clear standards or tools.**
- Many feel powerless when loved ones are treated with medication instead of compassion.
- It is important for families to have a strong basis to:
  - Understand what their loved one is experiencing.
  - Understand what good care looks like.
  - Find alternatives to harmful practices.
  - **Advocate effectively** for their loved ones.

# + Why It Matters to Professional Caregivers & Providers

## Supporting Those Who Give Care

- Caregivers want to provide quality care but often lack training or guidance.
- Our project offers:
  - **Practical tools based on professional standards** for everyday care challenges.
  - Resources that help caregivers **respond with empathy** to dementia-related behaviors.
  - Pathways to become **recognized as a compassionate and competent provider**.



# The Dementia Care in the Community Resource Center

- Offers a **library of easy-to-use, evidence-based tools** for dementia care in the community.
- **Translates professional care standards** into clear, practical guidance for families and caregivers.
- Our ultimate goal: Drive **lasting improvement** through education, outreach, and advocacy.



Practical Tools for Everyday Care



# Fact Sheets: Supporting Informed, Compassionate Care

- Designed for family members, caregivers, providers
- Grounded in professional standards and person-centered practices
- Topics include:
  - Care Planning
  - Engaging Activities
  - Home Safety
  - Pain Assessment Tools
  - Preventing Pressure Ulcers and Urinary Tract Infections
  - Understanding and Responding to Dementia-Related “Behaviors”

## LONG TERM CARE COMMUNITY COALITION *Advancing Quality, Dignity & Justice*

### UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONDING TO DEMENTIA-RELATED “BEHAVIORS”

#### FACT SHEET FOR INDIVIDUALS LIVING AT HOME OR IN ASSISTED LIVING

When an individual living with dementia shows signs of upset, distress, or other behavioral changes, it can be difficult to know how to respond. These changes, commonly referred to as Behavioral and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD), are common. While these symptoms can be distressing, they often have underlying causes and can usually be addressed without medication.

This fact sheet provides practical steps and gentle, effective strategies to help caregivers, families, and community-based care providers respond to these behaviors with compassion, patience, and understanding. For more resources, please visit our website, <https://nursinghome411.org/dementia-care-in-the-community>.

#### What are Behavioral & Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD)?

People living with dementia often experience changes in mood and behavior. These behaviors are not “just part of dementia” and can often be reduced by understanding and responding to the person’s needs. They may include:

- Aggression or agitation
- Hallucinations or delusions
- Anxiety, depression, or apathy
- Restlessness, pacing, or wandering
- Verbal outbursts or resistance to care

#### The Most Important Thing to Remember:

Behavior is  
communication.  
Behavior is *not* a disease.

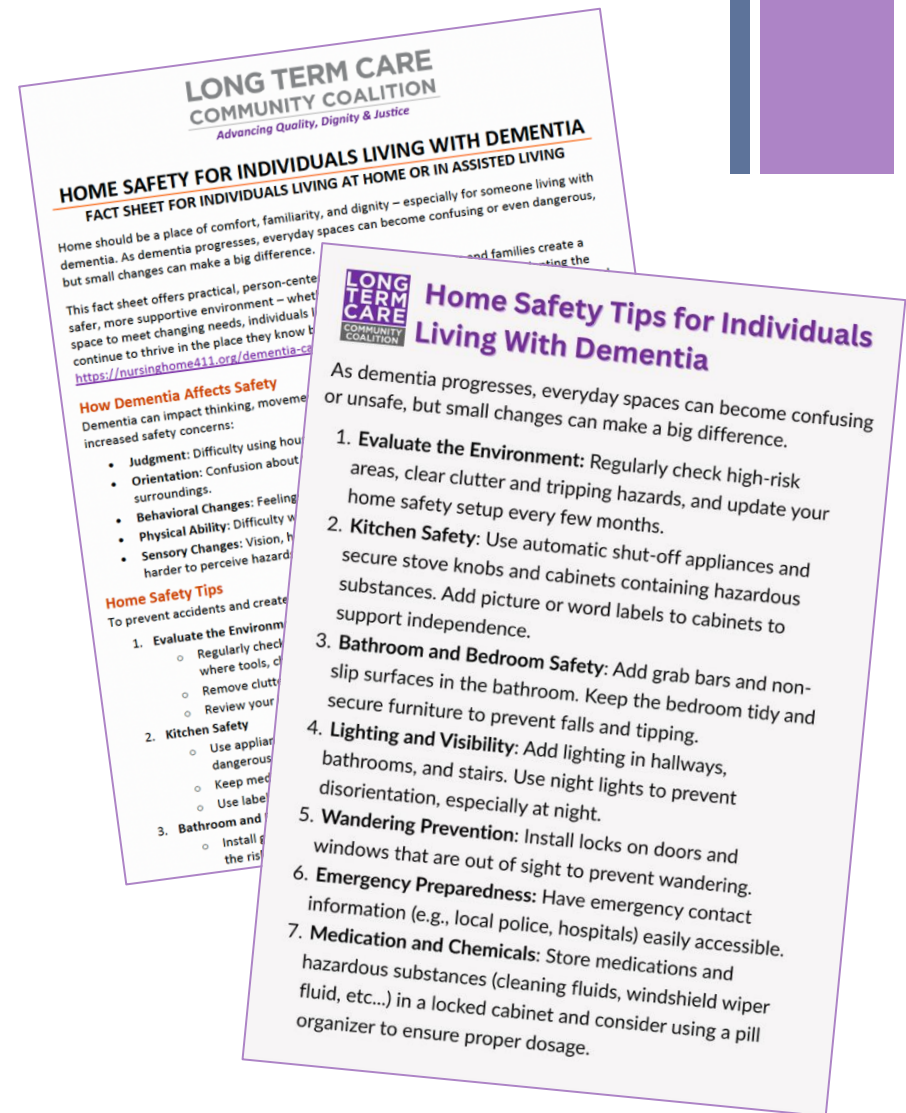
#### Key Points to Know

- **Medications are rarely the first or best option.** Antipsychotic drugs should only be considered a risk when a person is at immediate risk of harming themselves or others. Even then, they should be used for a short time and closely monitored.
- **Not all symptoms need medication.** For example, hallucinations that don’t bother or upset the person often do not need to be treated at all.
- **Most behaviors have a cause.** These symptoms may be a sign that the person is in pain, confused, overwhelmed, or having an unmet emotional, social, or physical need.
- **Non-drug approaches usually work better.** These include changes in daily routine, communication style, environment, and meaningful activities. For more information, see [LTCCC’s fact sheet on non-pharmacologic approaches to dementia care](#).



# Dementia Care Cards: Quick Tips for On-the-Go Support

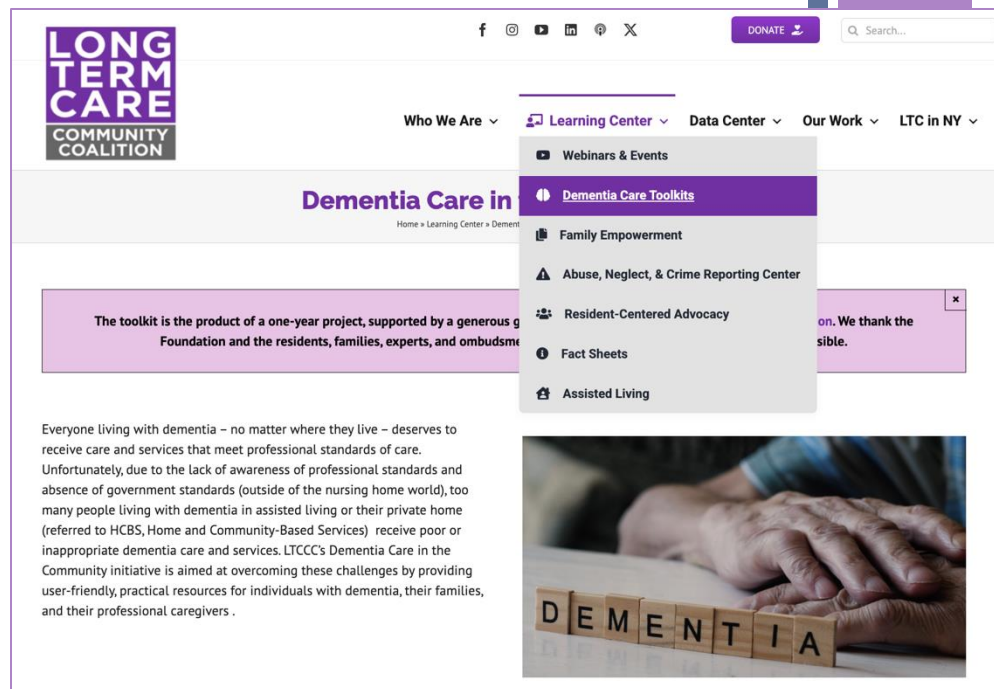
- Easy to print, share, and post in care environments
- Designed for use by:
  - Family caregivers
  - Home health aides
  - Assisted living staff
- Topics include:
  - Home Safety
  - Informed Consent
  - Preventing Pressure Ulcers
  - Supporting Nutrition and Hydration





# How to Access and Use These Tools

- Explore the toolkit!
  - Free and printable!
  - Share with caregivers, providers, and advocates
- How to Use:
  - Integrate into care plans and team discussions
  - Share with family caregivers or case managers
  - Use during staff orientation or continuing education



[NursingHome411.org/Dementia-Care-in-the-Community](https://NursingHome411.org/Dementia-Care-in-the-Community)



# What's Next and How You Can Help



- LTCCC is seeking funding to expand this work through focused outreach to:
  - Family caregivers
  - Professional care staff
  - Assisted living and home care providers
- Our goal is to get these tools into the hands of the people who need them most—and support real change in dementia care
- **Share the Toolkit:** Help us spread the word to families, caregivers, and providers in your community
- **Use the Materials:** Download, print, and incorporate the fact sheets and care cards into everyday care and training
- **Stay Connected:** Visit [NursingHome411.org](https://NursingHome411.org) to learn more and stay updated





# Head to NursingHome411...



- Materials from today's webinar,  
<https://nursinghome411.org/webinar-dementia-care-community>
- Follow LTCCC on Instagram for updates, upcoming webinars, and more! [@LTCcoalition](#)
- Visit LTCCC's Learning Center for...
  - ✓ Fact sheets on key nursing home standards
  - ✓ Assisted living guides
  - ✓ Family empowerment resources
  - ✓ The Resident Abuse, Neglect, & Crime Reporting Center



# + See you in September!

No LTCCC webinars in July or August, but make sure you're subscribed to keep up with our work!



# Thank You For Joining!

**For updates & invites to future programs**  
**[www.nursinghome411.org/join/](http://www.nursinghome411.org/join/).**

**LTC Ombudsmen: Look out for an email  
confirming your attendance of this program on  
Thursday.**



Questions?

Comments?