



OHIO NURSING HOME QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

OMA: Opening Minds through Art Phase II

Description:

Opening Minds through Art (OMA) is an award-winning, evidence-based, intergenerational art-making program for people living with dementia. It is designed to provide opportunities for creative self-expression and social engagement for people living with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. Developed in 2007 at Miami University's Scripps Gerontology Center in Oxford, Ohio, the program is grounded in person-centered care principles.

OMA sessions are led by trained facilitators. Each elder is paired with a trained volunteer (college/high school student or community member) who provides guidance during the art-making process but who makes no aesthetic decisions for the artist. Both the art-making process and the final artwork remind staff and family members of the vital, creative person who still remains. *OMA helps others to view people with dementia more positively. This new attitude in turn directly improves the quality of interaction with and care of people living with dementia.*

OMA has received recognition as one of the nation's most innovative visual art programs for people with dementia:

- Approved by the Ohio Department of Aging as a Quality Improvement Project (2015-present)
- Funded by the Ohio Department of Medicaid for state-wide replication (2016-2022)
- Designated as a "Program of Distinction" by Generations United (2015-2021)
- Best Practice in the Delivery of Activities Services award from the National Certification Council for Activity Professionals-NCCAP (2018)
- Recipient of the Rosalinde Gilbert Innovations in Alzheimer's Disease Caregiving Legacy Award (2016)
- Best Practice award from Leading Age Ohio (2011)

Objectives/goals of the program:

1. Promote the social engagement, autonomy, and dignity of people with dementia by providing creative self-expression opportunities;
2. Provide staff and volunteers with opportunities to build close relationships with people who are living with dementia;
3. Show the public the creative self-expression capacities of people with dementia through exhibitions of their artwork; and
4. Contribute to the scholarly literature of dementia care and the arts.

How to join:

ltcquality.ohio.gov

Activities staff, nursing staff, artists, service-learning educators, and those wishing to implement OMA must attend a 3.5 day in-person Facilitator Training session or a hybrid Facilitator Training program, combining online learning with a 1.5 day of in-person practicum, to learn OMA methodology and philosophy. Thanks to The Ohio Department of Medicaid, skilled nursing facilities with Medicaid certification can apply for funding to implement the program. Facilities with current partnerships with Ohio medical schools and universities with allied health programs are given priority. Please check OMA's website for details: www.ScrippsOMA.org or contact OMA via email at ScrippsOMA@MiamiOH.edu or by calling 513-529-2914.

Brief description of required activities:

- Complete grant application form at www.ScrippsOMA.org
- Identify staff member(s) to attend OMA Facilitator Training
- Recruit volunteers to attend OMA sessions weekly for 6-12 weeks
- Use OMA video clips to train volunteers
- Conduct weekly OMA sessions (60-90 minutes/week)
- Evaluate OMA sessions using the tools provided
- Conduct an annual art show
- Complete annual progress reports with supporting photo/video/text evidence

Participation dates:

Interested nursing homes will participate in a one-year program starting in 2020, 2021, or 2022. The year of participation starts with attending an OMA Facilitator Training session. These sessions are typically held several times a year. Close monitoring, consultation, and support will be provided by Scripps Gerontology Center for 12 months following the facilitator training.

Evidence of participation in a QIP project:

Evidence of participation in OMA should be kept by the nursing home for use during state surveys to demonstrate compliance with Sec. 3721.072 (B) of the Ohio Revised Code which states that *"Beginning July 1, 2013, each nursing home shall participate every two years in at least one of the quality improvement projects included on the list made available by the department of aging under the nursing home quality initiative established under section 173.60 of the Revised Code."*

Evidence of participation includes:

1. OMA Facilitator Training certificate of completion
2. Photographs or original artwork created by residents that reflect OMA methodology
3. Resident and volunteer evaluation results
4. Completed OMA annual reports

Resources available to nursing homes that are selected to receive funding support:

- Scholarships for 2 staff members to attend OMA Facilitator training
- OMA Handbook with 20 field-tested OMA art projects and all necessary materials to implement and evaluate the OMA program
- Online video-based training modules to train OMA volunteers
- Post-training consultation and online support

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- Supply list and seed money to purchase recommended art and studio supplies

For more information, contact:

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