

0328

## **"Culture Change" And Environmental Influences - The New Trend In Congregate Living For Elderly People**

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**Learning Objectives:** Participants will:

- Recognize the role of therapists in facilitating culture change.
- Identify environmental changes and treatment interventions related to "Culture Change" and how these changes can increase functional performance.

**Time required:** 1.5 hours

**Teaching Methods:** Lecture, Discussion, Experiential

**Number of participants:** Unlimited

What is "Culture Change" and how does it effect us as therapists? How does the environment effect "Culture Change? How can we facilitate changes within our facilities? How can "Culture Change" contribute to increased societal participation?

"Culture Change" is the movement which embraces the personhood approach in care of the elderly in congregate environments. This approach emphasizes daily routines which are client-centered and client-directed and includes respecting the individuality of staff and encouraging their input and self direction in programming. "Culture Change" replaces the medical model and institutional approach which emphasizes schedules and traditional roles of staff. Close relationships between residents, family members, staff, and community is important as is sensitivity and respect of an individuals' ethnic and cultural background in forming a living environment that is designed to be a home rather than an institution.

The "Culture Change" movement may be new for other members of the care team but it is in the core of occupational therapy. It takes into consideration elderly people' human rights, social participation, opinions, t life experiences, and cognitive abilities. It focuses on recognition of the strengths and abilities of the older adult, development of compensatory techniques, and adaptations to encourage the person's involvement to their maximum level of ability.

The presenters will describe what the "Culture Change" movement has accomplished and suggest how occupational therapists can assume a lead in this movement and in helping elderly people, who may need to live in a congregate setting, to live as comfortably and functionally as possible. In this program, the participants will have opportunity to participate in various exercises and to share their experiences with culture change, environmental influences and helping elders to "live life to the fullest"