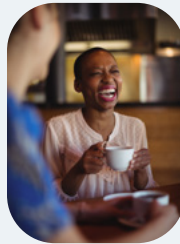


Moving Forward, Together: Creating Dementia Supportive Communities the Right Way

3




Guidance for Supervisors and Leaders

Dementia Supportive Communities are strongest when they are shaped **with** people living with dementia and their care partners, not just **for** them. People with lived experience bring unique insight into what feels welcoming, what creates barriers, and what truly makes a difference in daily life.

Leaders play a key role in creating the conditions for meaningful engagement to happen consistently and ethically.

- Create formal and informal opportunities for people living with dementia to share input.
 - Hold focused feedback sessions or listening sessions.
 - Create welcoming spaces where people feel comfortable offering feedback spontaneously, without needing to “sign up” or prepare.
- Involve people living with dementia and care partners in planning, testing, or reviewing programs and spaces.
 - Invite people living with dementia to participate in planning activities.
 - Include people living with dementia in pilot testing or walk-throughs of new spaces, processes, or materials.
- Ensure participation is accessible, supported, and voluntary – not tokenistic.
 - Involve people living with dementia early before decisions are finalized.
 - Seek input on meaningful questions, not just symbolic ones.
 - Keep sessions short, with breaks built in, and allow flexibility to step away if needed.
 - Follow dementia supportive communication principles.
- Act on feedback where possible, and communicate what has changed as a result.

When leaders model inclusive decision-making, it signals that lived experience matters and that feedback leads to real action.

 **Amplifying impact means not only sharing the message, but sharing power, listening deeply, and moving forward together.**

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