

Allerton House

at Central Park
Assisted Living Community

Independent Living
Assisted Living
&
Memory Care
WEYMOUTH



Social Worker Eases the Transition to Weymouth's New Memory Care Neighborhood

Joyce Watson O'Neil, LICSW, MPH, CDP, clinical social worker at Welch Senior Living and the Memory Care Neighborhood at Allerton House in Weymouth, brings more than 20 years of experience to her role of guiding residents and their families through the challenges that accompany a progressive memory disorder.

Having a licensed clinical social worker on-site is not a requirement for memory care residences, yet Welch Senior Living recognized long ago the added value and benefits it brings to families affected by Alzheimer's disease and related memory disorders.

"Our Memory Care Neighborhood supports the uniqueness of each individual resident," Watson O'Neil says. "That person – who they are, their life experiences, what they enjoy, their individual strengths – is at the center of their care. We provide a therapeutic environment focused on generating self-worth and positive emotions."

Ellen Laramée, RN, CDP, a senior clinical assisted living consultant and certified dementia practitioner, with



Senior clinical assisted living consultant and certified dementia practitioner Ellen Laramée, RN, CDP on left; Clinical Social Worker Joyce Watson O'Neil, LICSW, MPH, CDP on right.

over 30 years at Welch Senior Living, adds that a positive environment is created in part by setting up comprehensive service care plans. "These are designed to mirror what was done at home to help ease the transition to a memory care neighborhood," she says. Ensuring the plan development is custom tailored to an individual resident is the role of specially trained nursing staff, whom Laramée oversees. In addition to providing support when residents and families are dealing with the clinical aspects of the disease, Laramée's own experience with relatives who have had Alzheimer's allows her to relate on a personal level.

Watson O'Neil also sees her role as a partnership with residents and families.

She sees the value in both sitting with a resident to write his or her story for reference when reminiscing, and meeting with a family member wondering how to broach the idea of the Memory Care Neighborhood with their loved one. "By partnering with families in this way, we learn how to best expand opportunities to engage an individual," Watson O'Neil said.

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