



We Are on A Mission

pushing back stigma around mental health and aging across the community. Mobilizing the power of therapeutic activities which engages, empowers, and cultivates well being.

Our products and services strive to provide a burst of energy through education for Activity Professionals, health care service providers and care partners in the community.

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No Turning Back!

Pandemic impact. The world and specifically healthcare brought unimaginable challenges and within the storm, creative, competent leaders, who had been there all along, emerged in new and exciting ways. It is time to redesign the role of Activity Professionals, harness the power of change and move forward, as a profession, equipped with a vision of Activity Service that knows, no limits. Borrowing words from “This is Me” from the movie, The Greatest Showman... “We are bursting through the barricades and reaching for the sun”. Together we can light the way.(1.5 hr)

Lessons From the Road: Wit, Wisdom and Wonder

The public often views healthcare as a one-way transaction however WE, health care professionals know the reality is different. We witness seniors’ model great courage, vulnerability, and resiliency. Bust a few myths about senior living in this session, explore aging and optimism, elements of amazement and hear firsthand stories from Activity Professionals who share real life experiences through the lens of wit, wisdom, and wonder. (1.5 hr.)

Launch Pad: Creativity and Engagement

Pushing stress aside this, high energy, immersive workshop explores creativity through individual and team challenges striving to re-ignite creativity, unlock inner wisdom, and get unstuck! Strengthen your creative edge and persistence in designing and delivering PCC quality of life moments decreasing activity barriers and maximize engagement. Writer Elizabeth Gilbert said, “A creative life is an amplified life.” Together, we CAN ignite, light, and amplify the way. End Target: Resident Engagement (1.5 hr or 3 hr)

Pump UP the Volume and Your Message!

It is said that people fear what they do not understand and that a confused mind does not “buy.” More often we state WHAT activities we design and deliver however forget the WHY or outcomes/benefits activities bring to each individual. Workshop probes if your WHY activities is clearly expressed in your daily work , networking event, writing or conversations in the community by immersing you to craft your first or update a powerful message that clearly articulates the power of activities. (1.5 hr.)

Key Notes

Forecast: Professional Image. Cloudy or Clear?

Professional image is important. First meeting with a client, future employer or professional networking may be a boom or a bust. This session demonstrates how the right balance of assertiveness, positive power, presence, strength building language and delegation can make a difference. Make each opportunity count, crystallizing your professional forecast and ultimately your service delivery. (1.5 hr.)

Power UP Your Public Speaking!!

Transform the negative energy of fear into one that empowers YOU to deliver powerful presentations. Organizing, audience composite, delivery styles and grounding techniques will be strengthened in this session. (1.5 hr.)

Professional Development

Empowerment! Residents Creating Self-Care Strategies

Depression. Anxiety. Agitation. Nausea. Aches and pains. Well-known symptoms of stress can easily overwhelm an individual. Instead of ignoring sensations and feelings support residents, to dig deep into what underlying need not being met so they can feel safe and relaxed. Explore the beauty of the senses and how they can be leveraged into meaningful coping strategies. Proven ideas that support folks living with mental health, trauma experiences and more. Educate, engage, and empower through modeling, sensory tools (putty, feathers) movement strategies, using art for focus and breath practices which set residents up for success to manage their tension.(1.5 hr)

Spirit of Place: How it Impacts Daily Life

Space, and how it is used, is important to our health and wellbeing. Studies show that people are less depressed after going for a walk outside, blood pressure rates lower after viewing forest landscapes, and rates of healing are increased when facing a window versus a wall. Explore how to maximize the space in your environment and create your own healthy lifestyle. (1hr)

Aroma: Essential Oil Strategies for Well Being

Helen Keller said, "smell is a potent wizard that transports you across thousands of miles and all the years you have lived." Our sense of smell is our primordial link to our brains. When we inhale a scent, neurotransmitters in our brains trigger the production of biochemical secretions that affect our moods, feelings and emotions. Learn the physiology of smell, safety features for using oils and potential benefits. (1hr.)

The Power of Mindful Self Compassion

"Stress" is considered the health epidemic of the 21st century? Stress interferes with our productivity, performance, and impact in relationships and home life. Let's reflect... Do you feel drained or overwhelmed by the growing demands and pressures of the workplace? Are you receiving unrealistic requests for bigger and better programs? Do you feel like you're drowning in multi-tasking and meeting tight deadlines? If so, this session shares tips for setting healthy boundaries that honor YOU. You'll explore techniques that are beyond the normal self-care practices. It's time to reclaim your peace and a calm state of mind at work. So, get ready and get real about your "Self-care! You can't take care of others without taking care of yourself FIRST!!!! (2 hr.)

At the Intersection of Nature & Poetry: Wellness Strategies

Nature heals, soothes, connects, and restores calling us to receive these good "gifts". Studies show people are less depressed after going for a walk outside; blood pressure lowers after viewing forest landscapes, and rates of healing increase when facing a window versus a wall. However, we often become disconnected from nature due to work demands, living situations and other barriers. Come explore color and light, texture, and patterns in nature and reconnect as we become "keen observers" of the earth, as poet Mary Oliver said. Session will share several practical nature and poetry projects for exploration and tips to support wellness for residents and yourself. (1 hr)

THRIVE! Practitioner Self Care: Going the Distance

Going the distance and thriving along the way. Identify internal and external limitations that create stress in the healthcare environment, learn time management techniques that will support a healthy work-life balance, ways to create boundaries in the workplace and strategies for creating a path towards a lifelong satisfaction and success in the Activity Profession. (1.5 hr.)

Wellness

Walk About: Why It Mattered Then and Now

Physically we are created to walk and have done so for 4.5 million years, and research shows how our minds “slow down” when we walk, and our brains are simulated by what we see as they are empowered by the increased oxygen exercise brings to the body. Walking also has sociological implications and riding in a vehicle of any kind removes us from the land and each other. Join us as we dip into an interesting book that chronicles a walk in 1909 from NYC to San Francisco by a 70-year-old man, how our society has changed as technology evolved, lessons learned and why walking, matters today. (1 hr.)

The “H” Factor for Life: Happiness and Wellbeing

Happiness is a basic human need yet is defined differently by each of us. Recent studies show that happiness in life goes in waves peaking in the early 20’s and peaking again in our late 60’s. Relaxing into who we are decreases anxiety and increases life satisfaction. Explore happiness across the ages, cultures and its importance in this hectic world. Dipping into the “Happiness Project” and “The Geography of Bliss” and more. Up your daily dose, “H” Factor for Life! (1 hr.)

Meditative Paths: Exploring Labyrinths and Mandalas

Labyrinths, a path of prayer and Mandalas a sacred space to shut out external influences. Both practices can promote focus, change breathing rates, increase clarity and contribute to the healing process. Strategies for self and residents. (1.5 hr.)

Wellness

Play Matters!

Specific, intentional movement can heal, maintain or strengthen. Cognitive games (just a short list) stimulate the brain, mobilize problem solving, reasoning, humor, social manners and affirm individuals or aid in community cohesion. Play, which releases stress, is often the gateway to creativity. Explore the power and benefits of play across the lifespan, identify your play personality, strengthen communication and engagement in your community (1.5 hr.)

Sensorium: A Pathway to Connection

The senses are a portal to reach clients who are changing every day and challenging to serve. Experiential workshop offers time and space to consider your own sensory profile which provides unique insight into the clients' perspective. Physiology of how to activate or calm senses discussed. Explore sensory items, how to adapt materials, safety precautions, responses to look for and document plus expand your sensory toolbox to serve 1:1 or small groups. (1.5 or 3 hr.)

Engagement: Activity Service Design & Delivery

Aroma: Essential Oil Strategies for Room Visits and Small Groups

Helen Keller said, "smell is a potent wizard that transports you across thousands of miles and all the years you have lived." Our sense of smell is our primordial link to our brains. When we inhale a scent, neurotransmitters in our brains trigger the production of biochemical secretions that affect our moods, feelings and emotions. Learn the physiology of smell, safety features for using oils and potential benefits. Plus, sample policy for Community Life department and make and take project. (2hr)

Activity Salad Bowl: Serving All, Part I

The case mix of long-term living continues to change, and Activity Professionals must be ready to serve all. Session will address the unique identities, emotional life, strengths and interests of all. Generational components set the base for exploring how to connect, and deliver meaningful, person-centered, ultimately, person directed activities to a wide range of clients (1.5 hr.)

Activity Salad Bowl: Serving All, Part II

Building off the concepts outlined in Part I we move into specific populations within senior communities. Reviewing elements of Trauma Informed Care, potential stigma with the goal of building collaboration with residents allows us, as care partners, to explore the unique strengths and desires of folks living with Mental Illness, Substance Use Disorders/Recovery, understand recovery and homeless experiences. We also explore Multiple Sclerosis and Developmental Disabilities. The goal is to set each person up for success. Experiential learning in this session occurs through demonstration of adapting activities and small group challenge to design a living environment that minimizes potential barriers. (1.5hr.)

Engagement: Activity Service Design & Delivery

On the Horizon: Serving Co-occurring Populations in Older Adult Settings, Part I

Substance abuse, particularly of alcohol and prescription drugs, among baby Boomers is one of the fastest growing health issues facing our country. Some seek treatment while many do not and when the need arises for long term care unmet needs, arrive at the older adult setting. Coupled with mental health issues, care provision can be complex. Are you equipped to provide supportive services, arrange AA meetings and integrate a complex case mix? Putting the pieces together, workshop offers practical tips from the field, resources to equip group leaders, an overview of co-occurring diagnoses of mental health and addiction with goal of building community. (1.5 hr.)

On the Horizon: Serving Co Occurring Populations in Older Adult Settings, Part II

Building on the base knowledge of Mental Health and Substance Abuse discussed in Part I this session, will dig deeper into: the structure and purpose of the Diagnostical Statistical Manual (DSM), strategies for understanding complex client cases, identify Critical Element Pathways for regulatory compliance, provides tips to strengthen positive communication between residents, peers and staff to locate resources for nonpharmacological person-centered approaches. (1.5 hr.)

Celebrating ALL of Me! Dementia Positive Life Enriching Strategies

Personhood is the driver behind this workshop. Focusing on the strengths of the person living with Dementia, you CAN find ways to communicate and connect much easier. Dementia Positive is possible if we, the care partners, embrace the whole person and commit to walking life together. This interactive workshop is designed to inform and empower YOU the care partner so that everyone is set up for success by leveraging the power of activities and creating moments of JOY, every day. (1 hr.)

Special Populations

Presentations Provided for:

Keynotes:

Pennsylvania Activity Professional Assoc.

Kansas Activity Director Assoc.

Iowa Healthcare Assoc

National Certification Council of Activity Professionals Symposium

Michigan Assoc. Of Activity Professionals

Creative Arts Symposium, Doylestown, PA

Minnesota Statewide Activity Professionals

Activity Professionals of the Hudson Valley, NY

Lancaster Activity Directors Assoc., PA

Penn State, Abington

National Adult Day Services Asso.

Recreation Professionals of Ontario

New York State Parks & Recreation Society

Pennsylvania Assisted Living Asso.

PA Adult Day Services Asso.

NJ Activity Professionals Asso.

National Assoc. Of Activity Professionals

Maine Healthcare Asso.

NJ/ Eastern PA Therapeutic Recreation Asso.

Southeastern PA Veterans Home

Michigan Healthcare Assoc.

Nebraska Healthcare Assoc



Hoots & Hollers

from Move IT! Games for Muscles & Memories

How the Workshop Evolved

Activity Professionals from Bucks County, PA identified games (beyond bingo and balloon volleyball) as their most urgent activity program need, wanting portable, highly adaptable, fresh resources.

Learning Design

An experiential day that guides you through unique ways to move the body and brain so that you can understand from the client perspective the required sensory, physical, social and cognitive skills. Ideas are budget friendly; many are portable and adaptive for various client strengths and needs.

Move IT! In Action

Experiential movement...work team project...team showcase...game exploration...activity analysis.
B-O-N-U-S 20 pg. resource booklet

Top Take Aways from Participants

“gave me new resources and challenged me to think of unique ways to use program materials that we already have...” (South Eastern PA Veterans Home, Spring City)

“speaker presented a variety of choices for many client levels...”

“Enjoyed the hands-on training”

“various demonstrations, helpful” (Bright View Community, East Norriton)

“opened my eyes to look at things differently” (Saunders House, Wynnewood)



Meet Nancy Richards, ADC,EDU,MC

Founder, CEO and Possibility Leader of
Activity Pathways, LLC

A healthcare education company on a quest pushing back stigma around mental health and aging across the community through mobilizing the power of therapeutic activities to engage, empower, and cultivate well being.

Nancy, promotes the benefits of purpose, exploration and play, elements of, human wellness. A graduate of Wesley College and Gwynedd Mercy University with emphasis in Gerontology, designs, and delivers products and speaks nationally, released her second sensory activity engagement workbook, *That Makes Sense! Sensory Ideas to Refresh Life* in 2021. Is a Past President for the Pennsylvania Activity Professional Association, volunteers on the Education Council for the National Association of Activity Professionals (NAAP) and is nationally NCCAP certified and mentors' others to secure certification. Nancy continues to serve adults in an acute, co-occurring program in suburban Philadelphia.

Raised in a multi-generational household, Nancy, taps into that rich experience, creating meaningful moments, cultivating engagement.

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