

Domains of Person-Directed Care

Jobs to Careers

Person-Directed Care is a way of thinking about care that honors and values the person receiving care. Well-being and quality of life are what the person receiving services say it is. Helping people get care the way they want to get care is more important than completing care tasks.

1. Personhood. Each person:

- has value and deserves respect
- has abilities and can contribute to those around them
- has his or her own feelings about living in this place

2. Knowing the Person.

- Each person has a different life story – who was in their family, who was important to them, what did they do during their lives, their cultural heritage
- Everyone has their own ways of doing things (like eating, doing personal care, spending time).
- Knowing people's life stories and how they like to do things are important for understanding what kind of care they need now.

3. Choice.

- Most people like to make their own choices about how they live.
- Most people like to control their situation and they are happier & function better when they can.
- People have the right to make choices even if it puts them at risk.
- Although safety is important, it must be balanced with the person's choices

4. Comfort.

- Both emotional and physical comfort are emphasized.
- The highest standards of practice are used (e.g., pain control, alternatives to restraints, appropriate medications, exercise, bathing, dressing, eating, toileting, skin care, wheelchair seating, appropriate touch, calming people when they are agitated or worried).

5. Relating to others.

- Each person has relationships with others, including family members, friends, or staff.
- Relationships between staff and the person receiving care contributes to better care
- Relationships with family members and friends help to reduce isolation and provide continuity in the person's life.

Supportive Environment. The ability to provide PDC is depends on the organization. For the direct care worker this means:

- adequate information and training
- ability to be an advocate for residents
- ability to make decisions about resident care
- having the time and support to work with residents
- teamwork
- good supervisors
- staffing