

# Memory Care Home Solutions

Community-based non-for-profit organization founded in 2002

Mission:

To extend and improve quality time at home for people living with dementia and their families

# In-home Dementia Caregiver Intervention

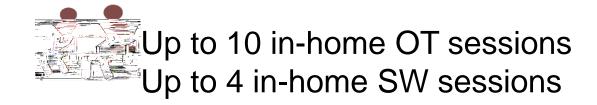
Family consultation

6-month follow up

12-month







Identify preserved strengths, roles, and routines



Home and environmental assessment

Teach a problem. 34 chf7P dvissesoM.ap c1348Do ØGS5 gs E1779BDC 0.94917

#### About you

Who do you care for?

What health issues are they dealing with?

Why do people become caregivers?



#### Physical

Increases risk of infection, heart disease, and immune disorders

Can lead to

Gastrointestinal and eating problems

Sexual dysfunction

Sleep disturbances

Headaches

# Cognitive

Memory changes

Lack of concentration

Disorganization

## Psychological

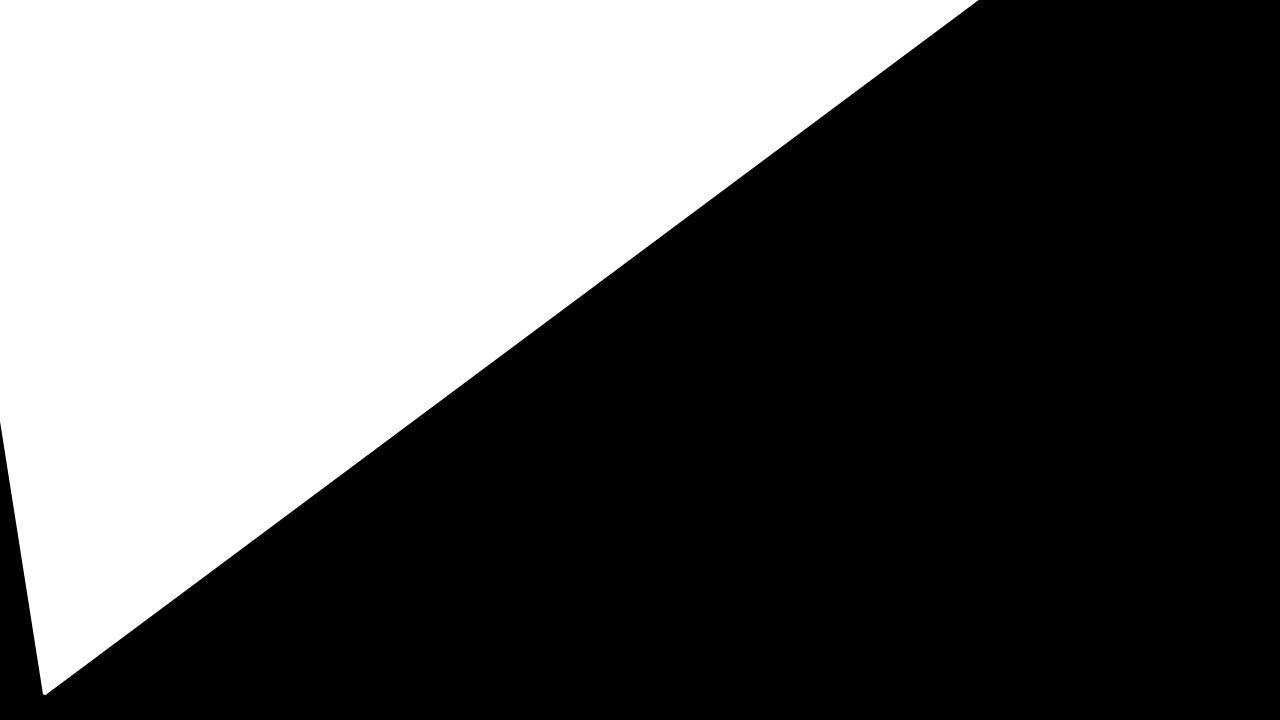
Reduce feelings of pleasure and accomplishment

Lead to depression or anxiety

Contribute to feeling angry or irritable

#### Social

Impact relationships with other loved ones and friends Feeling isolated and alone



What's at stake if we don't address these caregiving burdens?

#### Create a plan for yourself

What are your goals as a caregiver?

What things are important to you and the person you're caring for?

What helps keep you well and healthy?

#### Information

Information about disease symptoms and progression Information about helpful agencies and resources Practical hands-on caregiver training

#### Respite

Can include

In-home care

Adult day programs

Short-term respite in LTCC

Can lessen behavioral symptoms with some diseases

Allows self-care and contributes to more meaningful times when together

Can help with most challenging aspects of caregiving

#### Creating respite zones

Identify a space in your home that you find relaxing

Fill it with meaningful items (pictures, trinkets)

Create a welcoming sensory experience

Essential oil diffuser, candles

Comfortable pillows, blankets

Soft lighting

Music

Snacks, drinks

# Support

Building your team!

#### Medical Care

Does YOUR doctor know you are a caregiver?

Tell him/her about your situation

Stress will complicate health problems

Don't skip appointments for yourself (or your loved one)

Make it easier on yourself to get care

If you have the same doctor as your loved one, schedule the appointment on the same day

Mail order medications or a delivery service



## Peer to peer support groups

Learn from other's experiences

Gain meaningful connection and relationship

Online or in-person options

## Counseling

Gain perspective from an objective party

Develop good coping strategies

Process trauma and grief of caregiving



# Counting Exercise

#### Prayer, religious readings, and spiritual reflection

Consider your individual beliefs and background and how that integrates into your well-being.

#### Listening to Music

Listening to music and playing a favorite song or type of music can help to bring you back in the moment and relax

#### Visual Imagery Exercise

Close your eyes and imagine a relaxing object, place, or activity.

Free Guided Meditation downloads from UCLA Mindfulness Awareness Research Center

http://marc.ucla.edu/body.cfm?id=22

FREE Apps for iOS or Android:

Insight Timer

## Thank you!

Amy Sobrino, MSW, LCSW 314-346-2364 asobrino@memorycarehs.org