

Dementia Montessori Event Summary

On March 3rd and 4th, 2020, Texas Health and Human Services Commission hosted a two-day training seminar funded by Money Follows the Person Demonstration Grant created and led by Dr. Cameron Camp of the Center for Applied Dementia Research. Dr. Camp returned to Texas after previously providing his 1-day Montessori Based Dementia Programming® Seminar in December, to again offer the 1-day seminar along with his new full-day training Applying Montessori-based Principles For Leadership Development and Staff Engagement in Care Communities. For day two, Dr. Camp was joined by Mr. Gary Johnson who shared his expertise on leadership development and staff engagement. Both of the trainings were offered remotely via webinar so that people not only residing in other parts of Texas but also other states and countries across the globe could participate. A total of 530 people attended the two-day event with many attending both days.

Upon completion of the trainings, participants had the option to claim a certificate indicating their new achievement and Dementia Montessori knowledge they had gained. A total of 603 certificates were issued to attendees. Everyone who participated in at least one full day of the training was eligible to apply for the CMDCP Certified Montessori Dementia Care Professional credential with ICCDP International Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners. Additionally, the certificates are also eligible to be used towards claiming continuing education units (CEUs) to demonstrate proficiency in their respective professional field and licensure.

Those who attended day one of the trainings were eligible to claim 6.0 hours CEUs for the following licenses regardless of location: administrators (NAB), activity professionals (NCCAP), certified therapeutic recreation specialists (NCTRC), nurses, care managers, CDP Certified Dementia Care Practitioners, Nevada Board of Social Workers. Additionally, for professionals licensed to practice in Texas, 6.0 hours of CEUs were available for: licensed social workers, licensed marriage and family therapists, certified nurse aides, long-term care ombudsmen, assisted living facility managers, license psychology professionals, licensed professional counselors, occupational therapists and assistants, qualified intellectual and developmental disability professionals, day activity and health services managers, home health managers, and hospice managers. Those who attended day two of the trainings were eligible to claim 6.0 hours CEUs for the following licenses regardless of location: care managers and CDP

Certified Dementia Care Practitioners. As with day one, for professionals licensed to practice in Texas, 6.0 hours of CEUs were available for all of the same license holders.

Feedback from participants on both days was overwhelmingly positive, and in the days following the seminar countless emails and anonymous surveys continued to be received. The responses ranged from personal narratives about how great Montessori Based Dementia Programming® has been for those who have been fortunate enough to witness it, to questions about how to address individual issues that have arisen due to an absence of the programming in care communities. Some especially notable feedback included:

“I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed this webinar. Dr. Camp was very engaging and really made it fun and interesting. I like the way he interacted with the people that were at the seminar, even though I only got to experience it from the webinar. I feel that I now have a better understanding of my residents and will focus on what my residents can do instead of what we believe they can not do. From now on I will think engagement!”

“I appreciate being able to watch for free. That was incredibly generous of you and your organization. Your passion for quality care is obvious. Early in my career in skilled nursing I was introduced to Dr. Camp's work and now to see the same principles applied to staff is incredible.”

“I thoroughly enjoyed the speaker and the information provided. So much so that I would like to find out about a speaker for the State Agencies’ Director meeting in June.”

This feedback is very representative of the positive tone of responses from participants and exemplifies how well received Dr. Camp’s Montessori Based Dementia Programming® was by people who work in care communities and can benefit most from this knowledge.