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THE DEMENTIA ACTION ALLIANCE AND THE EDEN ALTERNATIVE® RELEASE THE FIRST SET OF PRACTICE STANDARDS FOR PERSON- AND RELATIONSHIP-CENTERED DEMENTIA CARE CO-CREATED WITH INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (October 22, 2020) —

COVID-19 continues to challenge aging services more than any other event in recent history. Research has shown that person-focused practices optimize well-being for both individuals accepting support and those offering it. Person-centered practices that nurture caring relationships are more needed than ever.

The Dementia Action Alliance and The Eden Alternative® have joined forces to launch a set of person- and relationship-centered standards of practice for dementia care called *Raising the Bar: Creating a Better Society in Which to Live with Dementia*. Using a consensus-based process, individuals living with dementia worked side-by-side with service providers, hands-on care partners, clinicians, researchers, and advocates, among others, to develop the *Practice Guide for Assisted Living Communities*, the first in a series of five, setting-specific guides.

"Until now, there have been no standards of practice for person- and relationship-centered dementia support that have directly engaged the informed experience of the true dementia experts – the people living with dementia themselves." says author, geriatrician, and international dementia specialist Al Power, MD. "Their voices are particularly vital in an era when the psycho-social needs of individuals living with dementia are more at risk than ever before."

Raising the Bar asserts that relationships with and support of people living with dementia must encourage and strengthen the overall well-being of the person, specifically the individual's sense of identity, connectedness, security, autonomy, meaning, growth, and joy.

Recognizing, too, that meaningful and sustainable change begins with leadership and engages all aspects of operations, the Guides outline the recommended practices through eight interdependent perspectives. These “building blocks” of person- and relationship-centered dementia support include governance, leadership, hands-on care, health and wellness, physical environment, services, accountability, and the core values that connect and unite them all.

“This resource will help organizations reveal where their systems and practices are inadvertently influenced by stigma and outdated perceptions of dementia,” says Jan Bays of Jill’s House, an assisted living memory care community in Bloomington, Indiana. “We are excited about having a user-friendly tool like this that offers team members a clear vision for how to move forward and make their choices and actions count.”

The *Raising the Bar* series will develop dedicated *Practice Guides* for four additional settings: nursing homes, adult day support, home care, and one’s own home. Today marks the launch of the *Practice Guide for Assisted Living Communities* - the first release in the series, with the remaining guides becoming available over time.

“Living well with dementia is a human right,” says Laurie Scherrer, a member of the *Raising the Bar* development workgroup who lives with a diagnosis of dementia “I want to thrive, not just survive. *Raising the Bar* provides the person- and relationship-centered framework and ‘how-to’ focus that has been missing.”

To learn more, go to <http://bit.ly/RaisingtheBarAssistedLiving>.

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About the Dementia Action Alliance

The Dementia Action Alliance (DAA) is a nonprofit organization of people living with dementia, care partners, dementia specialists and other advocates making a better society in which to live with dementia. DAA is committed to helping people live fully with dementia and supporting those who care about them. We are engaged in changing society’s understanding of and attitudes about dementia by serving as a trusted source for conversations, education, and advocacy. Visit www.daanow.org for more info.

About The Eden Alternative®

The Eden Alternative is an international, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization focused on creating a world that celebrates aging and human potential. Dedicated to creating quality of life for elders and their care partners, wherever they may live, we offer person-directed training and consultation services designed to create revolutionary shifts in the culture of care. From the nursing home to the neighborhood street, The Eden Alternative provides a flexible framework for personal and organizational transformation that honors each individual and supports empowerment, growth, and purpose. For more information, visit <https://www.edenalt.org>.