

Title of Project: Renovating Traditional Nurses Stations

Hitz Memorial Home  
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Hitz Memorial Home in Alhambra, Illinois used their innovation grant from the Department of Public Health to renovate two nurse station areas in an effort to put residents and staff closer to each other in spaces that nurture culture change experiences.

Open areas are inclusive and staff, residents, families and visitors make themselves at home, living the everyday life while providing support to the resident as needed. There have been some wonderful outcomes.

Dementia mapping is a way of gauging well being for the person with dementia. With only the physical changes and no training or staff being aware of the mapping process the score went up 50%. The staff pays more attention to the resident and is no longer leaning over the counter to talk with other staff but are sitting in the area with residents and communicating with all.

They have built a small entry way and put in a new front door that we would all want in our home in what was the nurse station area. “Were we ever surprised when we noticed one day how quiet it was and stopped to see why and realized the residents were not trying to leave the building anymore from the front exit” said Marsha Haslett. The wander guard is still on the front door inside the entryway and the residents do not try to go out the door and have not come into contact with the wander guard to make it ring.

Of course the residents, staff and family satisfaction surveys were great. There were some who didn’t like some aspects of the change but in total outcome the satisfaction was over 95%. Privacy was a concern and some were not favorable of the colors and style. Some said nurses need room and do not need to be interrupted by others. Some said isn’t it great to sit with the residents, do your work and maybe even get a hug or two.

Hitz Home would be pleased to give you a tour of the home or send you a copy of the presentation presented at the Southwestern Pioneer Coalition on the innovation project. You can get more information by e-mailing [mhaslett@hitzmemorial.com](mailto:mhaslett@hitzmemorial.com).

