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450 Aging Services Providers Commit to Safe Care for Seniors

New Safety and Quality Improvement Program Designed to Prevent Harm in the Course of Caregiving

SAINT PAUL, MN – (Nov. 15, 2019) – [450 aging services providers](#) across Minnesota have made the Safe Care for Seniors pledge and committed their organizations to implementing a five-step action plan that will help prevent harm that can occur in the course of caregiving.

“It is in our power, as providers and professional caregivers, to support the people we serve to live their best lives,” said Gayle Kvenvold, President and CEO, LeadingAge Minnesota. “United in a shared mission to keep those we serve safe from harm and to provide care, services and support with respect and dignity – always, Safe Care for Seniors will help create safe, trusted and inclusive environments that seniors are proud to call home and give families peace of mind in all we do.”

Safe Care for Seniors is a comprehensive safety and quality improvement program created focused on prevention. The program, created by LeadingAge Minnesota, begins with a commitment pledge to respect, dignity and safety. It is then followed by implementation of an five-step action plan that is based on accountability and responsibility to identify improvement opportunities in the delivery of care and services, to better understand the root cause of potential harm, to support and empower caregivers to respond appropriately in difficult or unexpected situations, and to enhance transparency, communication and partnerships with residents, staff and families.

“Safe Care for Seniors is a proactive way of thinking and doing things that will strengthen our culture of safety and ignite culture change. It is being led across the state by dedicated, compassionate caregivers who are united in their mission to enhance the lives of all who live and work in aging services settings,” said Nancy Stratman, Senior Seniors Director at Cuyuna Range Medical Center in Crosby and Chair of the LeadingAge Minnesota Board of Directors. “Providers and professional caregivers are leading by example for the betterment of the people they serve and the aging services field as a whole.”

In addition to the 450 aging services providers, nearly 27,000 professional caregivers, volunteers, staff and families have made the Safe Care for Seniors pledge.

Natalie Seehausen, Senior Executive Director, Vista Prairie at Garnette Gardens in Redwood Falls, said the Safe Care for Seniors pledge engages everyone to participate and actively think about safety, prevention and quality.

“Our mission at Garnette Gardens is for a culture that positive impacts our residents’ quality of life because we provide an environment safe from harm,” said Seehausen. “We recognize and celebrate the value of being proactive in safe care in our own community, and also see Safe Care for Seniors as a way to strengthen our partnerships with hospitals and other aging services providers in our area to more broadly support our mission.”

See the [list of aging services providers](#) who have committed to Safe Care for Seniors. For more information, visit www.leadingagemn.org/safecare.

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About LeadingAge Minnesota

About LeadingAge Minnesota Driven to transform and enhance the experience of aging, LeadingAge Minnesota is shaping future of aging services to ensure older adults in every community live with dignity, meaning and purpose. Together with more than 60,000 caregivers, our members provide quality services and supports to 70,000 older adults every day in senior housing, assisted living, adult day, home care and skilled nursing settings.