



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**SHYANN TOPEL, BUFFALO LAKE HEALTH CARE CENTER, RECEIVES MAKE ZERO HARM POSSIBLE AWARD**

Saint Paul, MN (Oct. 21, 2019) – Shyann Topel, Safety Director at Buffalo Lake Health Care Center, recently received the Make Zero Harm Possible Award from LeadingAge Minnesota.

The award recognizes staff in aging services settings who demonstrate their commitment to safe, quality care and to treating the people they serve with respect and dignity – always.

“Shyann Topel is a champion for safe, quality care. She sees safety as a core value of her work and goes above and beyond in her daily work to ensure a safe environment for all who live and work at Buffalo Lake Health Care Center,” said Gayle Kvenvold, President and CEO, LeadingAge Minnesota.

In addition to her role as Safety Director at Buffalo Lake Health Care Center, Topel serves as the Safe Care Team Committee Chair. In that role, she has created an interdisciplinary team of safe care advocates. The team designed goals and plans that would help prevent harm in the course of caregiving, and now meets twice a month to review concerns and identify solutions that will better the life of the residents and staff at Buffalo Lake Health Care Center.

In addition, Topel created Safe Care Boxes that are located throughout the organization to encourage staff, residents, families and visitors to share their concerns for the Safe Care Team to review and address; created a Safe Care for Seniors wall that highlights all the work brought about by the Safe Care for Seniors program; and is working with the larger organization and Board of Directors to address ways to support the mental health and wellness for the caregiving team.

“Shyann actively seeks staff, resident and family engagement with our safety efforts. Through her leadership and committed to safe, quality care, Shyann is helping create an environment that prevents harm and supports respect and dignity for all we serve,” said Kendra Hiles, Director of Nursing, Buffalo Lake Health Care Center.

Thanks to Shyann’s efforts, residents and families at Buffalo Lake Health Care Center are aware of the time and effort staff are putting into addressing safety concerns and many have expressed gratitude and interest in learning more about ongoing projects.

The Make Zero Harm Possible award is one component of LeadingAge Minnesota’s [Safe Care for Seniors](#) initiative, a comprehensive safety and quality improvement program. The program is designed to strengthen the culture of safety, prevent the risk of harm before it occurs, and uncover new opportunities for learning and improvement in the delivery of care and services.

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**About LeadingAge Minnesota**

Driven to transform and enhance the experience of aging, LeadingAge Minnesota is the state’s largest association of organizations serving older adults. Together with more than 60,000 caregivers, our members provide quality, compassionate services and support to nearly 70,000 older adults every day in independent living, assisted living, adult day, and skilled nursing.