

### ELANT

#### LOCATIONS:

Elant at **GOSHEN**  
46 Harriman Drive  
Goshen, NY 10921

Elant at **MEADOW HILL**  
172 Meadow Hill Road  
Newburgh, NY 12550

**GLEN ARDEN**  
A Continuing Care Retirement  
Community  
214 Harriman Drive  
Goshen, NY 10924

Elant at **FISHKILL**  
22 Robert Kasin Way  
Beacon, NY 12508

Elant at **WAPPINGERS FALLS**  
37 Mesier Avenue  
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590

Elant **CHOICE**  
31 Cerone Place  
Newburgh, NY 12550

#### SERVICES:

- Sub-Acute Care and Rehabilitation Services
- Nursing Home Care
- Elant Medical Practice
- Assisted Living
- Home Health Services
- Managed Long Term Care Plan
- Adult Day Programs
- Retirement Community Living

info@elant.org www.elant.org

## Elant's Social Workers Serve a Critical Role in Providing Care and Support for Residents and Their Families

Behind every great organization there are exceptional employees who work hard to keep everything running smoothly. They answer questions, go out of their way to help others, lift everyone's spirits and maintain a positive attitude. Elant's team of social workers is among the organization's class of extraordinary employees.

Elant's social workers not only provide general support and assistance to residents and their families, they help newly admitted residents with the adjustment to their new living environment; serve as liaisons between the resident and Medicare and Medicaid; and work to solve challenges. Furthermore, they play an important role in the development of the resident's care plan; assist residents to help them achieve the best physical and emotional health possible, and comfort residents and families during times of need.

"In addition to providing resources and services to seniors and their families, part of my job as a social worker is to look at the bigger picture," said Maria Marquez-McKerrell, who has served as Elant at Goshen's Director of Social Work for the past three years. "I also pair residents with programs and opportunities that contribute to the development and improvement of their social condition. Enhancing a resident's independent functioning throughout his or her life span is one of my main priorities."

Diane Meyer, Elant at Meadow Hill's Director of Social Work for the last two years, looks at her job as handling everything during the resident's stay with Elant "from admission to discharge."

"A resident is typically upset upon entering a skilled nursing facility," said Meyer. "And sometimes families are upset about a parent being placed. We understand this, and it's my job to help comfort and support the residents and their families throughout the process so that they can move forward in a healthy and positive way."

services, confirm they have therapy equipment available, and coordinate any other resources needed to assist with the individual's ongoing recovery at home.

One of the most challenging tasks for social workers is helping seniors – regardless if they are with Elant on a short-term or long-term basis – to achieve psychological milestones that help them find closure, particularly with accomplishments and relationships.

"I think this process is ongoing at any stage of the life cycle," said Marquez-McKerrell. "But growing older is inevitable, and it can be difficult to accept as one is simultaneously facing physical limitations and/or battling depression and anxiety as the result of unresolved conflict and personal loss."



Eleanor Hoyt, a resident of Elant at Fishkill, in conversation with Michelle Aiello, Director of Social Work

Social work intervention in skilled nursing facilities provides one-on-one counseling to alleviate psychological distress through the use of emotional support, social interaction and one-on-one discussions. This type of clinical counseling is given on a short-term basis and sometimes at the end of life. Most often, the social worker can assist the resident in experiencing the emotional transformation that will either facilitate the healing process or serve as guidance through a difficult adjustment period.

"Through my years of experience, I've developed the ability to create an atmosphere of trust with patients," said Marquez-McKerrell. "This enables them to feel comfortable to express their personal preferences, which enhances developmental and coping capacities."

Social workers go into the profession for a variety of reasons, but oftentimes they are inspired by personal experiences.

"I had a great connection with my grandparents – all four of them," said Aiello, who had one set of grandparents that lived next door to her Dover Plains home and great-grandparents across the street. "I was very fortunate. They had a big impact on my life which inspired me to choose this path."

Maura Brennan, Elant at Goshen's Executive Director and Administrator, feels that social workers are part of the fabric that makes up a health care organization. "All of our employees are caring and compassionate, but social workers are a very special component of a skilled nursing facility. They help us to ensure that we are providing our residents with the best care possible."



Elant at Goshen short-term resident, Catherine White, and Maria Marquez-McKerrell, Director of Social Work, discussing rehabilitation goals

Elant at Meadow Hill's Vice President and Executive Director, Chris O'Toole, feels that social workers are critical liaisons and supporters.

"Social workers serve as the connection between the facility, the resident and the resident's family," said O'Toole. "They assist in defining a mutual understanding of the skilled nursing facility process and managing expectations. Social workers also work to make sure that residents leave the facility feeling stronger, with multiple supports in place."

Michelle Aiello, Elant at Fishkill's Director of Social Work since 2007, enjoys working with short-term rehabilitation residents to ensure a smooth discharge back to their homes. This requires Aiello to lead a planning meeting with nurses and therapists to arrange homecare

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Your Life • Your Health  
Our Mission!

For more information about Elant's services or to schedule a tour please call 800-501-3936.