

A Framework for Action

The *Framework for Action* is a problem-solving model. It is a means for assessing and understanding aspects of any problem due to AD. The challenge is to sort out the competing needs, issues, risks and benefits for the affected person and others who are involved either directly or indirectly. The fact that a person with AD becomes increasingly disabled over time necessitates continuous assessment and planning for the future. Major changes in living arrangements or social patterns do not necessarily have to be changed in the near term.

The *Framework for Action* starts with a broad *description of the behavior*. Then the questions “*Is there a problem?*” and “*What is it?*” are posed. If there is a problem, it is important to ascertain *for whom is it a problem?* Is the behavior a problem for the individual with dementia, for the family, other residents living in the setting, or the management of the building? The different parties may have different and competing interests that are affected by problem. Once the issues and problems of the interested parties are sorted out, the next steps include: *determining what action* or plan need to be developed and *who will implemented the action*. Finally, attention must be given to *monitoring* the effectiveness of the plan and ongoing *evaluation*.

For instance, Mrs. Peterson has AD and is becoming less capable of preparing her meals. However, she lives in a retirement community where most meals are provided to residents. As a result, Mrs. Peterson may not have a problem related to nutrition. However, if she forgets to come to meals in the dining room, she definitely has a problem. On the other hand, if there is someone available to remind her about meals or if the community has a system in place that checks the attendance of residents at meals, then Mrs. Peterson may not really have a problem after all.

Mrs. Peterson may still enjoy preparing coffee and tea, but is occasionally leaving the stove on, resulting in pots boiling over. There have been several close calls with smoke in her apartment. On one occasion, Mrs. Peterson picked up a pot which was burning and sustained second degree burns on her hand. The questions here are: *Is there a problem?* and *Whose problem is it?* Mrs. Peterson clearly has a problem related to kitchen safety and now her neighbors in the building have a threat to their safety. Building management has a liability problem too. The *Framework For Action* may lead to a plan including turning off the stove in her apartment, assessing whether Mrs. Peterson can use a microwave for heating water, or encouraging her to come to the dining area for a cup of coffee or tea. After one or more steps are put in place, the final step will be an evaluation of the plan’s effectiveness.

FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

Description of the behavior

9

Is there a problem? What is it?

9

For whom?

9

<i>Organization/ Facility</i>	<i>Staff</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Person with dementia</i>	<i>Other Residents</i>
-----------------------------------	--------------	---------------	-----------------------------	----------------------------

9

Action

9

<i>Organization/ Facility</i>	<i>Staff</i>	<i>Family</i>	<i>Person with dementia</i>	<i>Other Residents</i>
-----------------------------------	--------------	---------------	-----------------------------	----------------------------

9

Evaluate and monitor

Adapted from: Archibald, C. (1995). In T. Kitwood and S. Benson (Eds.) *The New Culture of Dementia Care*. London: Hawker Publications.