

ASSISTED LIVING CARE ACADEMY



2026

December 2, 3, 9, 10

A Virtual Experience



This course is a Washington State-specific course designed to introduce wellness department leaders to the regulations and wellness-related expectations in the assisted living setting. While it might be a nurse leading the wellness department of an assisted living community, oftentimes it is a home care aide or nursing assistant. This class is ideal for anyone new to working with assessments, service agreements, medications, investigations, and other services commonly situated in the wellness department.

CARE ACADEMY OVERVIEW

The Washington Health Care Association's Assisted Living Care Academy provides knowledge, insight, resources, and tools for nurses and lead caregivers providing care in assisted living facilities. It is designed for nurses and caregivers who are new to wellness departments in assisted living settings in Washington and is beneficial for the professional growth and development of executive directors and other long term care workers wanting to learn more regarding the roles involved in running a wellness department, as well as nursing services in assisted living.

The Assisted Living Care Academy will enhance participants' ability to successfully manage nursing services and resident supports in assisted living. Assisted living services require a holistic approach to optimize and maintain—if not improve—an older adult's function, independence, engagement with the environment and with others, and maximize well-being, and quality of life. Nursing and caregiving practices in assisted living are driven by residents' preferences and supporting them in their choices. In doing so, many assisted living nurses and caregivers find their role incorporates a variety of activities such as counseling, health educator, direct clinical care, medication management, and helping older adults access the health care system. An assisted living wellness department leader is a collaborator, promoter of wellness, advocate, educator, and ultimately—caregiver.

During this multiple-day educational event, assisted living leaders will dive into the details and varied tasks and roles that are part of every day for a credentialed staff person in assisted living. This workshop will help nurses and caregivers understand the population they serve, the regulations that oversee their work, and the knowledge, information, resources, and tools it takes to be successful. Please join us to discover all you need to know about operating a successful wellness department in assisted living.

This course will address the challenges and routine duties an assisted living wellness department manager faces from day to day. The course instructors are experienced in long term care nursing, specifically in assisted living, and will offer expert knowledge on how to dispense quality nursing and ADL care to assisted living residents.

CARE ACADEMY SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 2	9 – 11 AM
Wednesday, December 2	1 – 3 PM
Thursday, December 3	9 – 11 AM
Thursday, December 3	1 – 3 PM
Wednesday, December 9	9 – Noon
Wednesday, December 9	1 – 3 PM
Thursday, December 10	9 – 11 AM
Thursday, December 10	1 – 3 PM

Prior to registration, please note:

- All sessions will be hosted via Zoom.
- Attendees must attend all sessions.
- Attendees will be required to maintain video feed throughout sessions to ensure engagement.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

WHCA Member Rate	\$259 per person
Non-WHCA Member Rate	\$518 per person

Registration includes a care package, access to all sessions, handout materials, 17 CEUs approved by DSHS for assisted living long term care workers and administrators, and access to presenters with follow-up questions.

REGISTER HERE

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SESSION OUTLINES

Each session of the Assisted Living Care Academy will provide insightful and relevant knowledge and information for individuals currently working in the wellness center in assisted living and to those aspiring to advance their career path in these areas in assisted living.

Wednesday, December 2 9 – 11 AM

Elena Madrid | Vicki McNealley

- Paradigm Shift in Long Term Care
- Introduction to Assisted Living
- History: Then and Now
- Systems Development: The Key to Success
- Nurse Practice Act
- Rules and Regulations
- Nurse's Role in Assisted Living

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Wednesday, December 2 1 – 3 PM

Elena Madrid | Vicki McNealley

- Intermittent Nursing Services: A Definition
- Qualified Assessor
- Assessments
 - ✓ Initial Pre-admission Assessment
 - ✓ Full Assessment
 - ✓ Ongoing Assessment
- Change in Condition
- Negotiated Service Agreements
- Resident Arranged Care
- Observing Residents and Staff

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Thursday, December 3 9 – 11 AM

Vicki McNealley | Laurie Johnsen

- Medication Expectations and Timelines
- Service Levels
- Accurately Directing Medications
- Family Assistance with Medications
- Prescriptions
- Transcription
- PRN Orders
- Monitoring
- Medication Documentation

Sponsored by Consonus Healthcare

Thursday, December 3 1 – 3 PM

Laurie Johnsen

- Storage and Security
- Packaging
- Interventions and Follow-up
- Miscellaneous Medication Issues
- Psychotropics

Sponsored by Consonus Healthcare

Wednesday, December 9 9 – Noon

Vicki McNealley

- Nurse Delegation

Sponsored by Mercury Pharmacy Services

Wednesday, December 9 1 – 3 PM

Elena Madrid

- Incident Investigations
- Mandatory Reporting of Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation

Sponsored by Mercury Pharmacy Services

Thursday, December 10 9 – 11 AM

Elena Madrid | Vicki McNealley

- Quality Assurance Committees
- State Inspections
- Documentation

Thursday, December 10 1 – 3 PM

Elena Madrid | Vicki McNealley

- Policies and Procedures
- Emergency and Disaster Preparedness
- Training Requirements for Nurses and Caregivers
- Bringing it All Together

CONTINUING EDUCATION

This course is approved for 17 continuing education units (CEUs) for assisted living professionals by the Department of Social and Health Services.

CANCELLATION POLICY

No refunds will be granted after November 18, 2026. Substitutions are encouraged. Please see our cancellation policy on our website:

<https://www.whca.org/payment-policies/>

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact us!

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CARE ACADEMY FACULTY

Laurie Johnsen, RN, CRNI, FCN, is a Pharmacy Nurse Consultant with Consonus Healthcare Pharmacy. She brings nearly 20 years of pharmacy nurse consulting experience, and has previously served in a wide range of roles in skilled nursing settings. In her position with Consonus, she helps customer facilities stay compliant with regulatory agencies, reviews systems and shares best practices. "Whether it be by providing education, finding creative solutions to challenges or just offering a listening ear, my goal is to empower staff and enhance their skills," she says. Laurie brings extensive skilled nursing facility experience, having served as a Certified Nursing Assistant, Resident Care Manager, IV Nurse Educator, MDS Coordinator, and Director of Nursing Services. A nursing graduate of Skagit Valley College, she is also a Board-Certified Registered Nurse Infusionist (CRNI) and a Nursing Home Infection Preventionist. Laurie is a frequent speaker on topics such as IV therapy, medication administration and documentation, diversion, and infection control. Outside of her professional life, she enjoys traveling, crocheting, crafting, antiquing, quilting, and spending time as a grandmother. She has also participated in three mission trips to Honduras, where she assisted with health clinics.

Elena Madrid, RN, BSN, WHCA Executive Vice President for Regulatory Affairs supports WHCA members by providing answers and insight to regulatory questions and expectations. Elena's long and focused background in survey and enforcement as a surveyor and field manager for DSHS provides her with extensive knowledge and insight on regulatory compliance, the survey process, and policies and procedures. Elena also provides support, resources, and training regarding quality. As staff liaison to the Skilled Nursing Facility Quality and Regulatory Executive Advisory Committee for WHCA, Elena works with members to promote quality care and services at every level. At DSHS Residential Care Services where she was a field manager with oversight of assisted living and skilled nursing communities, Elena was responsible for the supervision of licensors, surveyors, and complaint investigators for assisted living communities, skilled nursing facilities, and adult family homes in eastern Washington. Elena has also worked as a director of nursing in both assisted living and skilled nursing. She is a registered nurse and brings a wealth of knowledge regarding long-term care requirements and the regulatory issues affecting long term care providers.

Vicki McNealley, PhD, MN, RN, WHCA Director of Assisted Living, is directly responsible for supporting WHCA member assisted living providers through regulatory clarification, nurse consultation, facility system evaluation, advocacy, and education. Vicki has collectively worked with WHCA for 15 years. She has also worked as a corporate nurse for a Washington-based assisted living company where she served as a resource to facility nurses, administrators, and caregivers as well as wrote policies and procedures, conducted facility audits, and developed dementia care programs and a caregiver ladder program. She has extensive experience as an instructor, consultant, and provider, and has been involved in assisted living operations and policy work since 1999. Vicki has served as a national award reviewer for the American Health Care Association. Vicki is a registered nurse with a master's degree in community health nursing and a doctorate degree in nutrition.