two weeks and one approximately three months post-workshop—about their workshop experiences, motivations for attending, and short and long-term communication goal setting. Through the interviews, most participants expressed positive experiences with the workshop content, as well as an enjoyment of its interactive elements (e.g., self-introduction activity, reframing short and long form aging-related communications, group feedback). Several also shared specific examples of how workshop content was influencing their short/long-term aging communication strategies. Some participants, however, also identified ways that local culture could impact the interpretation of and, thus, potential success of workshop language and/or framing recommendations in specific communities. Overall, the findings from this study suggest that the Gaining Momentum workshop was a valuable experience for attendees that inspired critical assessment of, and changes to, the ways they communicated about aging in their professional and personal lives. Future research is warranted to explore the ways its content could be adapted to better meet the unique communication considerations within the province of Manitoba (e.g., cultural, geographic, and language-related implications).

AN ASSESSMENT OF ATTENDEE EXPERIENCES WITH A WORKSHOP TO REFRAME AGING-RELATED COMMUNICATIONS

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The Centre on Aging at the University of Manitoba adapted the FrameWorks Institute's Gaining Momentum toolkit into an interactive workshop that was delivered to aging-related stakeholders (e.g., health professionals, educators, researchers, advocates, older persons) across the province of Manitoba, Canada. The purpose of this study was to complete a qualitative assessment of attendee experiences with the workshop and its impact, if any, on their aging-related communication behaviors. Study participants recruited from four communities (two urban, two rural) completed two telephone interviews—one approximately two weeks and one approximately three months post-workshop—about their experiences, motivations for attending, and short and long-term communication goal setting. Through the interviews, most participants expressed positive experiences with the workshop content, as well as an enjoyment of its interactive elements (e.g., self-introduction activity, reframing short and long form aging-related communications, group feedback). Several also shared specific examples of how workshop content was influencing their short/long-term aging communication strategies. Some participants, however, also identified ways that local culture could impact the interpretation of and, thus, potential success of workshop language and/or framing recommendations in specific communities. Overall, the findings from this study suggest that the Gaining Momentum workshop was a valuable experience for attendees that inspired critical assessment of, and changes to, the ways they communicated about aging in their professional and personal lives. Future research is warranted to explore the ways its content could be adapted to better meet the unique communication considerations within the province of Manitoba (e.g., cultural, geographic, and language-related implications).

COMMUNICATION IN HOME CARE: THE EXPERIENCES OF FORMAL CAREGIVERS IN COMMUNICATING WITH PERSONS LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

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There is limited literature on formal caregivers' communication with persons living with dementia (PLWD) in home settings. Most research comes from studies of long-term care home settings or informal home care contexts. Yet, there are expected needs and rising demands for formal caregiver support within home care. The aim of this study was to understand better the lived experiences of personal support workers (PSWs) regarding their communication with PLWD in home settings. A hermeneutic phenomenological approach guided this research. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 15 PSW participants. Three major themes were identified through thematic analysis: (1) challenged by dementia-related impairments; (2) valuing communication in care; and (3) home is a personal space. PSWs experienced difficulties in their communication with PLWD despite recognizing the importance of communication in providing optimal home care. This suggests that while PSWs possess good intentions, they do not possess the skills necessary to ensure effective interactions. Dementia-specific education and training are recommended to improve PSWs' communication skills and to enhance quality of care. Findings highlight further the uniqueness of the personal home space itself on PSWs experiences with communication. Aspects of the home care environment can enable, but also complicate, successful communication between PSWs and PLWD. Consequently, findings also have implications for family members of PLWD and home care employers regarding optimizing practice and improving care.

THE USE OF TAG QUESTIONS IN PERSON-CENTERED COMMUNICATION

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Tag questions are imperative, declarative, exclamative or interrogative statements that have been modified to include a question (e.g.., It is hot out, isn't it?). Tag questions have been characterized as elderspeak because it suggests an expected response from the person with dementia, thus limiting his/her ability to make a decision independently. However, tag questions serve multiple functions in conversation. There is limited research on the multidimensional nature of tag questions in conversations between formal caregivers and their clients with dementia. Accordingly, the purpose of this study was to investigate the functions of tag questions used by formal caregivers in utterances coded as person-centered. Conversations (N= 87) between formal caregivers and a simulated person with dementia were video-recorded during a 5-minute care interaction involving morning care. Caregivers' utterances were coded for the use of the following types of person-centered communication: recognition, negotiation, facilitation, and validation. During secondary data analysis, the person-centered utterances were analyzed for