

Helping a Co-Worker Scenario A

- Your co-worker is a nurse who works in a long-term care home with you. You both work in a unit where four new residents recently moved in, all of whom have multiple and complex physical needs. A newly hired nurse is shadowing your co-worker as part of the care home's onboarding program.
- Your co-worker has stopped sitting with you during lunch breaks. Instead, they eat alone, or they do not eat at all. Yesterday, when they were administering medication, they told several residents to hurry up and to stop asking questions.
- When you approached them about their interaction with the residents, they said: "What does it matter? My work goes unnoticed. Everyone would be better off without me."

Questions

1. What signs and indicators are they experiencing?

2. Where might they be on the Mental Health Continuum (green – healthy; yellow – reacting; orange – injured; red – ill)?

3. How would you approach them? What can you say or do?



Helping a Co-Worker Scenario B

- Your co-worker is a fellow care provider who works part-time at two long-term care homes. There have been staffing problems at both workplaces, and they have regularly been accepting overtime hours.
- When your co-worker arrives at work, they tell you they feel exhausted. They no longer engage residents in conversation when they are performing care duties. During staff huddles, you notice that they stare off in the distance and often ask the charge nurse to repeat the information that was given.
- When you approached them about the changes you have noticed, they replied: “I don’t know why I bother to show up. Everyone would be better off without me.”

Questions

1. What signs and indicators are they experiencing?

2. Where might they be on the Mental Health Continuum (green – healthy; yellow – reacting; orange – injured; red – ill)?

3. How would you approach them? What can you say or do?

Helping a Co-Worker Scenario C

- You are a department director in a long-term care home. Lately, you have noticed that a director in another department is often running behind schedule. They are trying to manage staff shortages, and there have recently been delays in the delivery of medical and housekeeping supplies.
- Your co-worker is constantly receiving phone calls from family members of residents, who want to be more involved in their loved one's care. They have told you that they are having recurrent thoughts that things will only get worse, and that when they are at home, they avoid spending time with their family.
- When you approached them about the changes you have noticed, they replied: "I can't keep going like this. Everyone would be better off without me."

Questions

1. What signs and indicators are they experiencing?

2. Where might they be on the Mental Health Continuum (green – healthy; yellow – reacting; orange – injured; red – ill)?

3. How would you approach them? What can you say or do?

Big 4 Scenario A

- You are a recreation therapist in a care home for residents with dementia. There are several residents who no longer come to group activities no matter how much encouragement you give them. You sometimes find yourself thinking, “What’s the point?”.
- A family member of one of these residents has indicated that they would like to speak to you. You are very anxious about the conversation with the family member. You think that they are upset with you. For the past few nights, you have been drinking a few glasses of wine to help you fall asleep.

Questions

1. What signs and indicators are you noticing?

2. Where might you be on the Continuum? (green – healthy; yellow – reacting; orange – injured; red – ill)?

3. Which of the Big 4 Coping Strategies would you find useful in this situation and in what order?

4. What if a co-worker, family member, or friend is having these experiences? What could you do or say?

Big 4 Scenario B

- You are an experienced food service worker who recently changed workplaces to be closer to your home. You have received very little site-specific training at the long-term care home where you now work.
- You are constantly worried that you will make a mistake. Since you started your new job, you have been eating only one meal a day. When you arrive at work, your first thought is that you made a bad decision by changing jobs.
- You have a check-in with your manager scheduled for next week, and you are very nervous about how it will go.

Questions

1. What signs and indicators are you noticing?

2. Where might you be on the Continuum? (green – healthy; yellow – reacting; orange – injured; red – ill)?

3. Which of the Big 4 Coping Strategies would you find useful in this situation and in what order?

4. What if a co-worker, family member, or friend is having these experiences? What could you do or say?

Big 4 Scenario C

- You are the food services director at a large long-term care home. Tomorrow afternoon, you have to attend a monthly regional meeting.
- All you can think about is how much work you will have to catch up on and how you won't be there to pitch in during mealtimes and help your team.
- You are constantly managing staffing situations. You have noticed that you have been impatient with some of your staff lately, interrupting them when they ask questions. You feel exhausted when you come into work.
- Often, at the end of a workday, you think to yourself, “I can't do this anymore”.

Questions

1. What signs and indicators are you noticing?

2. Where might you be on the Continuum? (green – healthy; yellow – reacting; orange – injured; red – ill)?

3. Which of the Big 4 Coping Strategies would you find useful in this situation and in what order?

4. What if a co-worker, family member, or friend is having these experiences? What could you do or say?