

News from COLLAGE®, The Art and Science of Healthy Aging  
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COLLAGE Welcomes its Newest Member, Lutheran Homes of Michigan

Lutheran Homes of Michigan (LHM) has joined COLLAGE, a national consortium of aging service organizations. The consortium includes nearly 50 communities in 19 states and is lead by Kendal Outreach ([kendaloutreach.org](http://kendaloutreach.org)), an affiliate of The Kendal Corporation based in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania and the Institute for Aging Research at Hebrew SeniorLife ([hebrewseniorlife.org](http://hebrewseniorlife.org)) in Boston, both not-for-profit organizations.

The COLLAGE membership alliance of older adult communities include “continuing care”, “at-home” and “housing residences” dedicated to improving the lives, well-being and health of their residents. Participation in COLLAGE offers a community the rights and opportunity to administer a set of assessment questions about health and wellness to its residents.

COLLAGE is helping to redefine how aging service providers think about and plan for activities, services and programs focused on health, wellness and well-being. “It’s an exciting time for us to participate in this endeavor,” said LHM’s CEO and President, David Gehm. We’ve been actively looking for a way to improve our ability to advise our residents on matters of health, wellness and successful aging, as well as enable us to develop stronger system-wide interventions and outcomes. Participating in the membership consortium and using the COLLAGE tools will give us the opportunity to collect and organize resident health and wellness data and will add a level of individual and program evaluation that we haven’t had up to now. We’re thrilled to participate and look forward to working closely with consortium members and developers,” said Gehm.

“We’re delighted that Lutheran Homes of Michigan has joined COLLAGE,” commented John Diffey, Kendal’s CEO and President. “We’ve been impressed with their state of the art vision for advancing healthy aging and their commitment to using scientifically- grounded assessment tools.” LHM has wanted to develop stronger system-wide interventions leading to better outcomes to help advance healthy aging throughout the organization. “We know that COLLAGE is part of LHM’s larger strategy to strengthen operations around health and wellness, said Diffey. “We look forward to working with them and growing this important initiative on their Saginaw campus and with their home care agency.”

COLLAGE assessment tools were developed by interRAI ([interrai.org](http://interrai.org)), a not-for-profit international team of researchers and clinicians devoted to improving the lives of older adults through the use of standardized assessment instruments and evidence-based interventions.

Through the COLLAGE program, residents will meet with LHM staff at least once every six months. In a voluntary one-to-one conversation, a resident and qualified staff identifies an area or theme -- such as nutrition, sleep or preventive health maintenance -- that is particularly challenging to maintain, determine together what may be done about it, and develop a plan for addressing it.

COLLAGE will affect residents in different ways. There are some who may have a desire for assistance with light housekeeping, home repairs, laundry, bathing, etc. Others may not have a need for such services and historically rely more on friends or family for help, when necessary. Whatever the situation might be, the COLLAGE conversation will give Lutheran staff a better chance to know their residents' interests, needs and preferences, and better plan for the future if a resident's situation changes and the resident needs more or less help.

Nationally, organizations must be given the tools and resources to enable them to identify interventions, programs and services towards improved health and wellness for their residents in independent and assisted living. With a program like COLLAGE, organizations will be able to reliably and systematically improve resident outcomes.



**COLLAGE®: The Art and Science of Healthy Aging**

Standardized, systematic and integrated health and wellness assessment information for better outcomes. Advance healthy aging in your community. On the web at [collageaging.org](http://collageaging.org).