## Jennifer Blaik

Jennifer Blaik is both a care partner and health professional. Her drive to improve the quality of life in Long Term Care is evident in her passion as a family advocate and educator. Jennifer has worked in LTC and community for the last twenty-two years. She has worked for the Regional Municipality of York for the past thirteen years in various positions in Seniors Community Programs. In her current role, she supports front line staff serving clients with responsive behavior related to dementia, mental health, and other psychogeriatric related diagnoses. In this role she has been able to provide support to staff and family through various workshops, education sessions and most recently pivoting their programming to a virtual platform.

Jennifer is an active member of the Design and Dementia CoP, who write Best Practice for design in LTC and community settings. She has contributed to the modules on lighting, noise, doorways, wayfinding, and is currently working on outdoor spaces. She has been able to share this research right across Canada with webinars and workshops. She is a Gentle Persuasive Approaches in Dementia Care Master Coach, PIECES trainer, U-First trainer, and a certified Mental Health First Aid for Seniors Trainer. Jennifer earned her undergraduate degree from Brock University, a post degree program in Therapeutic Recreation, and a certificate in Adult Education.

As a Director on the OARC Board, she will use her frontline experience to provide focus for education in resident and dementia care. She believes in the OARC mission to embrace the dignity within all people and giving residents a stronger voice.

