

## Wesbury joins depression management collaborative

MEADVILLE TRIBUNE



Wesbury United Methodist Retirement Community's Grace Health Center is one of 40 nursing facilities across Pennsylvania in the Pennsylvania Quality Improvement Depression Collaborative.

The goal of the collaborative is to improve the quality of life of nursing home residents through the early detection and treatment of depression. It is sponsored by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Association for Healthcare Quality and the Madlyn and Leonard Abramson Center for Jewish Life and its Polisher Research Institute.

The collaborative will use a depression management program to reduce residents at risk for depression through regular administration of depression screenings, individualized interventions and monitoring resident response to interventions.

Depression is a signifi-

cant concern in the nursing home setting. The estimated rate of depressive symptoms among nursing home residents is between 22 and 40 percent. In addition to psychological suffering, research shows that nursing home residents who are depressed are at increased risk for disability, illness, injury, hospitalization and death.

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Association for Healthcare Quality is a management association among health care organizations throughout southeastern Pennsylvania.

The Abramson Center for Jewish Life is a non-profit provider of services to seniors that include nursing care, personal care and independent living apartments, post-hospital transitional care, hospice, home care, adult day care counseling and referral, as well as aging research.

