# **Bluestem Communities Returns to OnShift for Person-Centered Care**

#### **Key Results**

Achieve person-centered care with consistent staff to resident assignments

88% reduction in overtime hours

Improved resident care with happy, engaged employees

#### **Company Background**

Bluestem Communities formed with the merger of two long-standing long-term care facilities, Kidron Bethel Village and Schowalter Villa, to create one healthcare organization. With a combined 145 years of serving seniors, Bluestem Communities offers skilled nursing, assisted living and independent living to its residents and employs over 500 healthcare professionals.



### The Challenge

Bluestem Communities transitioned from using OnShift's scheduling and labor management software to an integrated scheduling product within their newly purchased HRIS and time and attendance vendor. Bluestem Communities had to maintain 17 nursing role schedules because the new system lacked a master schedule. This quickly led to employee frustration, a lengthy scheduling process and overtime that was more difficult to manage.



- » \$10,000 of additional overtime was incurred in two months because the scheduling system lacked easy visibility into employee overtime
- » Schedulers had to manually pull an overtime report to see employee overtime hours causing unnecessary overtime to incur when filling shifts
- » Schedulers each incurred 4-5 hours of overtime each week due to maintaining 17 role specific schedules and time consuming daily adjustments



## Consistency of Care Challenges

- » Schedulers lacked visibility into overall staffing requirements and had to sort through 17 schedules which led to a lack of consistent hiring
- » With the basic scheduling system, schedules were based only on open shifts and lacked assignments to specific neighborhoods, which made person-centered care nearly impossible
- » Employees were often confused and frustrated when arriving to work as they did not know the neighborhood where they were working until they arrived as the mobile app did not display this information



## Scheduling Complexities

- » Schedulers needed to maintain 17 position-specific schedules for each unit within Bluestem Communities. Creating each 2-week schedule consumed an entire week, including hours over the schedulers' weekends
- » Daily shift updates to the schedule required intensive changes to a cumbersome template, which taxed the scheduler as the process took, on average, three hours to complete
- » When open shifts occurred, the scheduler physically posted the openings on a board in the community as the system lacked SMS capabilities. This limited their pool of available candidates which caused them to typically rely on staff to pull a double to fill-in



#### **The Solution**

Due to soaring labor costs and inefficiencies, Bluestem Communities ditched their basic scheduling system and returned to OnShift's scheduling and labor management software. Ease-of-use, employee communications, and proactive overtime controls were key reasons Bluestem was thrilled to return to OnShift.



#### **Improving Costs**

- ✓ Reduce costs with predictive overtime analytics and real-time staffing data which allowed Bluestem to prevent overtime before it occurred
- ✓ Reduce unnecessary overtime when filling shifts with alerts indicating better choice candidates
- ✓ Eliminate scheduler overtime by consolidating 17 schedules into one master schedule with OnShift



#### Achieving Person-Centered Care & Improving Satisfaction

- ✓ The scheduler can easily assign employees consistent shifts to consistent locations, allowing them to care for the same residents, which strengthens staff-resident relationships and improves quality of care
- ✓ Achieve person-centered care with repeatable staff assignments, while still having the ability to make adjustments when needed
- ✓ Employees readily know when and where they are working at all times which has eliminated confusion and improved satisfaction



#### Senior Care Scheduling Made Easy

- ✓ Eliminated scheduling mistakes as schedulers now maintain just one master schedule in OnShift versus 17 schedules with their previous vendor
- ✓ Improve scheduling processes and increase efficiencies with repeatable templates and key staffing data at the scheduler's fingertips
- ✓ Improve overall employee communications, especially open shift management, by communicating shifts equitably and fairly via a text message, email, phone call or mobile push notification, based on each employee's preference

"I helped with daily scheduling using the old system and honestly, it was a nightmare. Once we got onto OnShift, it literally cut the time in half of what we needed to do."

- Joanna, Scheduler

#### **The Results**

- Achieve person-centered care with consistent staff to resident assignments
- 88% reduction in overtime hours within the first 8 work periods upon return to OnShift
- 94% reduction in time to make daily schedule changes
- Improved resident care with happy, engaged employees
- 93% reduction in time to create month-long schedule
- Employees are happier and less stressed at work with more control over their schedules
- Reduced number of required schedules from 17 to one master schedule in OnShift

 Integration of punch and employee data with Bluestem's new HRIS for a seamless labor management experience



improved resident care with engaged employees 88%

reduction in overtime hours





happy and less stressed staff

#### **Why Bluestem Communities returned to OnShift:**

"Our previous scheduling vendor wasn't in the long-term care market. It didn't allow us to have person-centered care where we needed to schedule based off a neighborhood, not just an open shift. We like all of our residents to have the same staff taking care of them, so that way our staff can get to know who they're taking care of. The other scheduling vendor didn't quite understand all the intricate details of how a long-term care facility works."

-Jerol Schrag, CFO

