

ICRN Monthly Meeting Agenda and Minutes – April 22, 2020

Location: Phone Conference **Time:** 1 to 2 pm

Attendees: Raj, Chrishun, Crystal, Susan, Darby, Greg, Melanie, Michelle, Tarisha, Barbara, Kristin Elaine, David

1. DEMENTIA FRIENDLY ILLINOIS

Discussion:

Darby (recap of Dementia Friendly April meeting)

- Groups are continuing to work on developing dementia friendly initiatives within their organizations and communities and shared innovative ideas of how they are interacting with audiences despite the state's shelter-in-place mandate.
- Collette (Age Guide) reported that all the AAA's received gap funding to support respite care and other support services.
- Some services have been put on hold and some activities such as the Evanston Memory Café have moved to a virtual platform.

Barbara (Evanston)

- Memory Café in Evanston is virtual.
- Shore Senior Center is doing two virtual activities per day M-F and hold a virtual Memory Café every Friday afternoon.
- They are also sending out activity packets to isolated older adults throughout Evanston. They will make these packets available at various food distribution outlets and Meals on Wheels of Northern Illinois to include in food delivery to ensure that every senior gets one.
- Sends out weekly emails with animated cards and resource links to caregivers and Memory Café participants.

Susan

- The ICRN is continuing to maintain contact/support with communities who are in the pipeline to become nationally recognized.
- Highland Park, Orland Park and Tinley Park have been offering online DF talks and trainings.

Tarisha

- Plans are ongoing for the Dementia Friendly Summit. Tentative date June 26. Committee meeting this week.

2. DEMENTIA FRIENDS ILLINOIS

Susan

- 3,609 friends from in-person talks
- 770 friends online
- 81 Champions trained and a training set for Friday morning
- Planning a campaign for Dementia Friends online, which would also be a fundraiser for the Alzheimer's Associations' "The Longest Day" events.
- Currently there are nine Dementia Friendly Communities. Several communities working towards submitting their application.
- There will be a virtual screening of Too Soon to Forget documentary on 5/21 for nursing students.

3. ILLINOIS HRSA GWEP/ADRD/ RECIPIENTS (Formerly CATCH-ON)

Michelle

- DF community efforts have ramped up to provide COVID19 education materials.
- Developing recorded and live sessions on memory loss and memory modules for nursing students. Will roll out in June.

Raj

- Things are moving with GWEP networks working to disseminate COVID information and resources with older adults and organizations.
- As part of the CATCH-ON GWEP there was engagement with accepted AAA's to help them move forward with helping communities in their area(s) become DF. There are currently three locations: Springfield, downstate Illinois near Carbondale, and central Illinois. Most are planning to start next fiscal year, which starts in July.

Elaine

- Collaborated with Becky Salazar, Director, Egyptian Area Agency on Aging (covers the lower 13 counties of Southern Illinois) with the plan to make Carterville, Illinois a Dementia Friendly community. They have identified a number of service groups to address in efforts to recruit Dementia Friends. These strategies have been put on pause with the "shelter in place" orders, but will be re-activated once the shelter order is lifted.

Greg

- Springfield Area Agency group has successfully transitioned operations to their new office building.
- Has initiated a Friendly Callers program, which is a check-in program for socially isolated older adults.
- Callers are trained volunteers who work from scripted questions to ask when they make calls to seniors.

4. DEMENTIA CAPABLE EFFORTS (IDOA) – No Updates

Raj

- Not sure if SAVVY Caregiver program is continuing or if it is completed. Will receive more information in next update.
- IDPH/Alzheimer's Disease Assistance Committee. Per Jennifer Martin, report is still in draft form and going through internal review process.
CDC has released the BOLD Initiative. Two levels of grants available:
 - State public health agencies (Per Jennifer), the State of Illinois is applying for the State Public Health Agency Center of Excellence to provide for dissemination around Alzheimer's disease. The ICRN will offer support in the application process.
 - Academic institutions and non-state agencies focusing on early detection and dementia caregivers. Helping people with cognitive difficulties to get testing and evaluations. The other area is risk-reduction of Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

5. ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Discussion:

6. Other News/Updates:

- The ICRN Caregivers Resource Guide is under revision. An updated version will be distributed shortly.
- Stay tuned for our new look. The ICRN website is under construction.

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Next Meeting Wednesday, May 27