

**ICRN Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, July 22, 2020

In attendance: Darby Morhardt, David Olsen, Michelle Newman, Heather (from Shawnee), Crystal Glover, Raj Shah and Susan Frick

**Dementia Friendly**

- Now at 13 recognized communities with Oak Park and the Tri-cities joining
- Hyde Park and Naperville are in the process of writing application
- 16 people on the Dementia Friendly call this month.
- Raj suggested letting Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus know about the monthly zoom meeting. Susan will send Darby contact information

**Dementia Friends**

- Currently have 3,706 friends through in person presentations
- 762 have signed up online
- Continue to have monthly champions training
- Currently have 92 champions
- Had discussion about how to encourage volunteers to remain active
  - Will begin to have zoom check-ins with current champions
  - Dave talked about how the Association is facing similar issues with keeping volunteers engaged during this time
    - They are offering virtual check-ins and pep rally
    - For policy volunteers – conference calls, zoom meetings, happy hours, game nights, social media training
    - Have seen a fall off for people less comfortable with technology
- Raj suggested that maybe we add to the Dementia Friendly letters of support a requirement for so many champions and friends
- Darby suggested bringing this up with the monthly call

**GWEPs (Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Programs)**

- Had quarterly check-in yesterday
- On target for goals
- Equip the trainer sessions were offered for nursing students
- Tarisha has been in contact with AAA's (Area Agencies on Aging) who received funding for Dementia Friendly communities.
- Michelle mentioned that through the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security), GWEPs received funding to help seniors access telehealth and technology.

- Raj talked about loading the Dementia Friends page as a pre-set app on any tablets given seniors
- Raj mentioned that we need to begin planning for the next funding cycle for the AAAs

#### Senior Building Training

- Darby mentioned that this has been folded into the ACL Grant and work plan was just approved

#### Dementia Capable Efforts

- For next meeting with check for update on Savvy Caregiver through AAAs.

#### Advisory Council

- Job posted for State Dementia Coordinator
  - Applications need to be submitted by July 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm
  - Hope to have person in place by end of the year
- Committee has not met in some time but Director Ezike, Illinois Department of Health (IDPH) is reading through current applications.

#### Alzheimer's Disease Advisory Committee (ADAC) – Jennifer Martin

ADAC is transitioning into a new membership structure. Once the membership is approved, the committee will begin meeting again.

DPH applied to CDC for Alzheimer's Disease Program. The proposed activities align with short-term objectives in the state plan. Below is an overview:

Below are recommendations, which appear to align, fit under our program's capacity, and are feasible to implement under the funding amount.

- Increase the number of ADRD **engaged stakeholders**
- Increase prevention in program planning and **priority setting** - Integrate Healthy People objectives on "Older Adults" and "Dementias, including Alzheimer's disease" into topic areas in the **State Health Improvement Plan**. (short-term recommendation (ST) 8)
- **BRFSS** - Support the Caregiver Module of BRFSS in 2021 (ST 13) and develop state data collection reports (ST 7).
- **Expand list of resources** on the IDPH website (ST 6).
- **Grants** (note: we are unable to identify organizations to fund in the application. If we are awarded the grant, then we have to conduct Notice of Funding Opportunity.)
  - Public awareness

- § Grant to an organization to implement public awareness strategies about brain health and the importance of talking to a health professional. The strategies will include Illinois data. Strategies also will promote culturally-appropriate strategies designed to increase public awareness about AD/ADRD, to reduce conflicting messages, decrease stigma and promote early diagnosis (ST 12).
- o Train healthcare providers
  - § Grant to an organization to provide training for primary provider sites trainings to improve knowledge by healthcare professionals about the best available evidence on dementia, Caregiving for persons with dementia, and tools and supports available. The intended audience will be primary provider sites staff, in addition to organizations representing primary care physicians and internists, midlevel advanced practice nurses and social workers. Organizations include, but not limited to, Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program funded by HRSA, the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians, the Illinois Chapter of the American College of Physicians, the Illinois Primary Health Care Association, local health departments, Illinois Society of Advanced Practice Nursing, Association of Nurse Practitioners – Illinois Region 5, and the National Association of Social Workers, Illinois Chapter (ST 2)
  - § Grant to an organization to support communities, designated to create a dementia friendly culture, to reach their local health care systems about promoting early diagnosis and connect individuals with community services.
  - § (ST 9)

### **Alzheimer's Association**

- David reported on the major initiatives for the Association
  - o Federal
    - COVID Relief Package
    - Improving HOPE for Alzheimer's Act – Medicare care planning benefits and training physicians to use
    - Elder Justice – first responders training
    - Loan programs for non-profit space
  - o State
    - Long term care priorities – testing, reporting and responding to surges (working with Public Health and Department on Aging)
    - Social isolation in facilities
    - Letter with Department of Public Health - engaging partners on how to help facilities
- 52 % of COVID deaths in Illinois were in long term care facilities
- Raj mentioned that IDPH creates the state plan, but dementia is not included in the SHIP Report (State Health Improvement Plan) which is used by every local Public health department. Discussion on how this could be part of the new state role.

## Updates

- Susan is working with LeadingAge to revamp the Dementia Leadership Course to be virtual this year
- Raj suggested pulling stakeholders together to discuss what works and doesn't work in COVID prevention and care in residential facilities
- Glencoe is offering Dementia Friends for school age young adults. See how that can be replicated in other communities.
- Alzheimer's Association's International Conference (AAIC 2020) is virtual this year and has a volunteer track
  - Raj suggested looking for mentions of Dementia Friendly and Dementia Friends in the conference offerings. Do the same for the Gerontological Society of America.