

To: Dementia Friendly Illinois and Dementia Friendly America

From: Dementia Friendly Hyde Park

Date: 8/12/2020

Subject: Submission for Dementia Friendly Recognition

Connecting Across Sectors:

The Dementia Friendly Hyde Park initiative includes stakeholders from a variety of sectors including:

Organizations:

- Chicago Hyde Park Village
- Chicago Public Library (Blackstone Branch)
- Hyde Park Art Center
- Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce
- Hyde Park-Kenwood Community Conference
- Hyde Park & Kenwood Interfaith Council
- Memory Center at the University of Chicago Medical Center
- Montgomery Place (Retirement Community)
- John F. Disterhoff, Ph.D. Magerstadt Memorial Research Professor at Northwestern University
- SHARE (Supporting Healthy Aging Resources & Education) Network
- SECC (South East Chicago Commission)

Elected officials:

- Leslie A. Hairston (City of Chicago Alderman, 5th Ward)
- Sophia D. King (City of Chicago Alderman, 4th Ward)
- Robert Peters (IL State Senator, 13th District)
- Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County Board President
- Curtis J. Tarver II (IL State Representative, 25th District)

Inclusion and Leadership of People Living with Dementia:

We strongly believe that the voices of people with dementia and their friends and family members are critical to the success of the Dementia Friendly Hyde Park initiative. We plan to create an advisory committee that will provide input about the needs and challenges facing people with dementia and how our community can best support them through education, advocacy, and other programming. Although we have just begun this outreach, we have commitments from the following:

- A spouse of a gentleman with dementia. (She is excited at the possibility of also getting her husband involved in the initiative as opportunities present themselves.)
- A woman who is a former neighbor of a man with dementia living in a memory unit at a local retirement community. Before the pandemic, she would visit him once a week with another neighbor and they both hope to resume those visits as soon as this becomes possible again.
- A woman whose husband recently received a diagnosis of early onset Alzheimer's.

Champion Organization and Coordination Capacity:

Tessa McEwen, a licensed social worker at The Memory Center at the University of Chicago Medical Center brought the Dementia Friendly initiative to the attention of several stakeholders in the Hyde Park community on Chicago's South side. The Chicago Hyde Park Village is taking on the role of champion organization for this application. The Chicago Hyde Park Village is providing part-time staff support to the Dementia Friendly Hyde Park initiative through generous funding provided through a collaboration with the SHARE Network at the University of Chicago Medical Center.

Adoption and Communication of Dementia Friendly Practices and Change Goals:

The Dementia Friendly Hyde Park initiative has already conducted the following:

- Held several stakeholder meetings in the winter of 2020 to build momentum for a Dementia Friendly initiative in Hyde Park
- Hosted a community presentation on 2/12/2020 at the Chicago Hyde Park Village Drop-in event
- Distributed a survey at the 2/12/2020 event and received community input to the following:
 - What living in a dementia friendly community means?
 - How Hyde Park is supportive of people living with dementia and their caregivers?
 - How Hyde Park could be more dementia friendly?
 - Which additional stakeholders should we reach out to?

We were planning on hosting a larger community-wide event in April to introduce the Dementia Friendly Hyde Park initiative to a larger group of community stakeholders. But then came the COVID 19 pandemic and we were unable to move forward. While it is unclear when we will be unable to resume in-person programming, we have decided to move forward with the Dementia Friendly Hyde Park initiative and will focus on organizational and educational outreach, which can occur digitally, so as to respect social distancing guidelines. Here is a list of some of the activities we are planning in the coming year:

- Create a dedicated email for the Dementia Friendly Hyde Park initiative (Summer 2020)
- Reach out to local elected officials and get them onboard with the initiative (Summer 2020) as well as to solicit their assistance on how best to get involvement from other sectors (first responders, businesses, residential settings, etc.) (Fall 2020)
- Recruit action team members (groups mentioned above in the convening across sectors) and convene the first quarterly meeting (Fall 2020)
- Recruit 5-7 people with dementia and/or their friends, caregivers, or family members for an advisory committee and convene a first meeting (Summer 2020)
- Begin promoting the Dementia Friends program and train 10-12 people (Summer 2020-Summer 2021)
- Continue monthly Hyde Park Art Center *Artful Aging* skill based participatory art making classes and workshops which provide the 65 + community an opportunity to express themselves through the arts and/or as Artists (ongoing)
- Contact the local newspaper, the *Hyde Park Herald*, and the local email list (Goodneighbors) to help publicize the Dementia Friendly Hyde Park initiative and seek community involvement (Fall 2020)
- Host a larger community meeting to formally introduce the Dementia Friendly Hyde Park initiative to the larger community via Zoom (or in person if the public health situation improves dramatically) (Winter 2020)
- Create a Dementia Friendly Hyde Park webpage with links to resources on the champion organization website in order to foster effective and efficient communication (Fall 2020)
- Expand the *Village Visitors* program to include 2-4 families impacted by dementia. This program is run by the Chicago Hyde Park Village and funded by the SHARE Network. It connects trained volunteers to older adults and provides opportunities for social interaction and exercise for older adults so that family members can enjoy a bit of respite. (Fall 2020-Summer 2021)

Hyde Park has numerous community forums and events throughout the year that will be excellent opportunities to share information about the Dementia Friendly Hyde Park initiative with the general public in the future. We look forward to adding in-person programming (ie. Dementia Friendly Hyde Park information table, presentations, etc.) at these events once that is possible from a public health perspective.

Progress Tracking and Sharing:

- Begin quarterly meetings with action team
- Evaluation Specialist Jeff Graupner, MPH, from the SHARE Network is available to help the Dementia Friendly Hyde Park initiative to identify, track, and report measurable outcomes

One paragraph Project Description:

Hyde Park is a part of a national movement called Dementia Friendly America which seeks to raise awareness about the impact of dementia on communities. Various stakeholders in Hyde Park are working collaboratively to ensure that our community is equipped with adequate information, training, and resources to support people living with dementia and their families and caregivers. We look forward to everyone getting involved, including community members, clinics, residential settings, businesses, local government agencies and faith communities.