1. DEMENTIA FRIENDLY ILLINOIS

Susan F. (RUSH)

Dementia Friendly

- 33 designated communities
- Several working on the application - Chinatown, Caseyville, Illinois Quad Cities
- Sub-committees still meeting regularly.
- Gave a DF (Dementia Friendly) staff training for Wheaton Public Library. Over 70 people attended. The group expressed great interest in Wheaton beginning the Dementia Friendly application process. They will need support to create their taskforce before moving forward. Susan will maintain contact for support.

Dementia Friendly Illinois Meeting Recap (February 21, 2024)

Darby M. (NWM)

- 23 in attendance
- There was a big discussion on Memory Cafés. Attendees discussed tips for starting them, managing them, and addressing the challenges of sustainability, how to keep them going in their communities.
  - DFLY IL will continue to support community efforts and
  - Encourage members to continue sharing tips and information that has worked for them with new communities.

Tarisha W. (RUSH)

- Currently working with several areas in Chicago.
  - Pullman
• Pilsen
• Little Village

• Tarisha and Elissa C. from RUSH met with representatives from La Brocha for the Pilsen area. They are still in the application process but are currently looking for a new lead and more community partners for their Dementia Friendly task force. Tarisha and Elissa will meet with them again to continue discussions and examine options.

• Pullman and Pilsen are still working through the application process.

Raj (RUSH)

• Discussed the momentum of the efforts in DFLY Illinois. We are on track and now have Dementia Friendly Communities in just about every service area in Illinois. Service areas 6 and 10 are the only remaining two that to date have no DF communities.

• The work in Chicago is ongoing. We are continuing to reach out to community leaders inviting them to learn more about Dementia Friends/Friendly Illinois. ICRN members offering to give DF talks and presentations to community groups. The goal is to get all 77 Chicago neighborhoods onboard. So far, we have: Austin, Englewood, Hyde Park, South Loop, and Washington Heights.
2. DEMENTIA FRIENDS ILLINOIS

Susan F. (RUSH)

Dementia Friends

- 11,212 - Total Dementia Friends
  - 8,904 – In-person Dementia Friend talks
  - 2,308 - online sign-ups
- 260 Dementia Champions

Discussion: Raj encouraged the ICRN group to continue to think of ways to provide simple messages on how to sign up for Dementia Friends and incorporate with the application/information on how to become a Dementia Friendly community. He also suggested making this part of the sustainability goals for established DF communities.

3. ILLINOIS HRSA GWEP/ADRD
CATCH-ON

Tessa (UChicago) SHARE

- The group created a flyer with three local area Memory Cafés up and running on Chicago’s south side. These include South Loop, Hyde Park and the Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Center on 119th Street. **Check the ICRN website for more information.
- Shared information on a hybrid/community event with author, Dasha Kiper to discuss book: “Taking Things Hard,” how dementia caregivers can manage challenging behaviors and symptoms of dementia. The event took place 3/5/24. Also shared information on the ICRN website and social media pages.
- Shared information from SSWLHC (Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care). See attached flyer.

CATCH-ON

- Susan gave a Dementia Friend/Dementia Friendly presentation to the group on Monday, 3/4/24.
IDPH (Illinois Department of Health)

Darby (NWM):
- A number of committees have been formed to help move forward initiatives on the State Plan and to make sure that goals are met, discussed and have action steps. Darby is the lead for the Safety and Support subcommittee.
- The cycle of the current State Plan is 2023 – 2026.

Raj (RUSH)
- The Illinois Academy of Family Physicians received a grant two cycles ago to do outreach to primary care physicians and trainees around early detection of dementia. As a result, they created a podcast called The Brain Trust Project. They now have 24 podcast episodes recorded – each about 30 minutes in duration.
- The podcast is moderated by both Raj Shah, MD from RUSH, and Eukesh Ranjit, MD from SIU School of Medicine.
- The most recent recordings have Raj and Susan Frick talking to dementia caregivers about their experiences with health care providers around the issues of early detection, dementia diagnosis and care plans. CEU’s are available.
- Visit [https://thebraintrustproject.com/](https://thebraintrustproject.com/) to listen in.
- The grant for this project ends June 2024. Has received very positive feedback on a state and national level.
- The Center for Disability and Elder Law was awarded the Dementia Early Planning Workshop Series grant. Darby will reach out to the group to invite them to attend one of the ICRN meetings to give an update on their activities.

4. DEMENTIA CAPABLE EFFORTS (IDOIA)

Raj
Discussion: Dementia Friendly vs. Dementia Capable
- Read an article in the Journal of Healthcare Leadership, where discussion centered around the right terminology to use: Dementia Friends, Dementia Friendly, Dementia First or Dementia Capable?
- The article challenged the term Dementia Capable because it reflects that people with dementia are incapacitated and require help from others.
- The article went on to say that Dementia Friendly is neutral and can work but that term Dementia First advocates for people with dementia.
- Article attached.

5. ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ADAC) UPDATE
David O. (Alzheimer’s Association)
- Wants to bring to the group’s attention two pieces of legislation the Alzheimer’s Association is advancing this legislative session. The bills have now been introduced in both the House and Senate.
- See attached fact sheets that include bill numbers.
- The Association appreciates the support of the ICRN for both of these initiatives.

6. Other News/Updates:

Jeffery B. (NWIL)
- Rockford is doing well promoting in the community and its Dementia Friendly initiatives. During the holidays, they hosted a “No Shush” event at a local movie theater for people with Dementia and their caregivers.

Raj (RUSH)
Discussion: Continue the discussion on what we should do next as a group to keep the momentum going.
- Continuing to promote Dementia Friends and Dementia Friendly on the ICRN website and social media.
- Inviting leads from AAA’s and IDOA to join the ICRN meetings were some of the suggestions.

Next Meeting Wednesday, March 27, 2024