

ICRN Quarterly Meeting Agenda and Minutes – April 23, 2025

Location: Teams Meeting **Time:** 1 to 2 pm

Attendees: Raj S., Chrishun B., Watkins K., Tarisha W., Susan Frick, David O., Darby M., Debbie K., Joy D.

1. DEMENTIA FRIENDLY ILLINOIS

Susan F. (RUSH)

Dementia Friendly

- At 44 communities
- Three communities approved since last meeting
 - Mendota
 - Galesburg
 - West Pullman/Roseland in Chicago
- One community is waiting to hear from National on their application which was submitted April 4th
 - Downers Grove
- Possible Dementia Friendly Summit on May 20th
- Pilsen and Antioch are working on their applications

Tarisha W. (Rush)

- Working with Park Forest to schedule a visit at Park Forest Public Library to get a Dementia Friendly Talk. The group has expressed interest in starting the application process.

2. DEMENTIA FRIENDS ILLINOIS

Susan F. (RUSH)

- 13,337 - Total Dementia Friends
 - 10,522 - From in-person talks
 - 2,815 - From online

- 333 - Dementia Champions
 - Champion training this morning
- Looking to offer Dementia Friends talks in the prison system
 - Working with contacts from SIU
 - Connected with education coordinator for Cook County prison and working on volunteer application

Elaine J. (SIU)

- Signed up 65 Dementia Friends during SIU Aging Brain Conference

3. ILLINOIS HRSA GWEP/ADRD CATCH-ON

4. DEMENTIA CAPABLE EFFORTS (IDOA)

5. ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ADAC) UPDATE

Raj S.

ADAC formed the Community Advisory Council whose goal is to work on the aging plan for sustainability in Illinois, to ensure that the state is a place where people can age well and with equity. Raj is on this committee as a physician representative. The group had its first meeting. Next meeting is in May.

Jessica L. (IDPH)

By email last week, Jessica announced the launch of a new public health campaign — [Your Brain Will Thank You](#). In partnership with the Alzheimer's Association Illinois Chapter, HDMZ Communications Firm, and other important subject matter experts and partners from across the state, the Illinois Department of Public Health deployed this media campaign as part of IDPH's CDC BOLD grant efforts.

The Illinois Brain Health Project aims to educate Illinois residents about the importance of brain health, equipping people with healthy actions that can protect brain health, reduce the risk of cognitive decline, and possibly reduce the risk of dementia. Driving the multichannel campaign is a charming mascot — a friendly brain character — that shares simple, everyday actions people can take to keep their brains healthy. The initial roll out includes an online ad campaign that drives people to a new website with resources and tips--[yourbrainwillthankyou.com](#).

Jessica urges all to join in promoting this campaign by making your own announcements, social media posts, and telling your networks to visit yourbrainwillthankyou.com. Attached: Partner toolkit.

David O. (Alzheimer's Association)

- The Alzheimer's Association is continuing its work on its 2025 legislative agenda which will continue to focus on access to Alzheimer's treatments.
- Also continuing partnership with SEIU and AARP on legislation (that went into effect in January 2025), regarding staffing ratios at nursing homes.
- Updated fact sheet on all pending Alzheimer's Association legislation attached (with this email)

6. Other News/Updates:

Darby M. (NWM)

- NWM Alzheimer Day is May 15
- 450 people have RSVP'd
- On the program:
 - Raj will be introducing the ICRN and give background information on the inception of Dementia Friendly Illinois
 - Susan will give a Dementia Friendly talk to the group
- Several community leads will participate in the panel discussion.

Debbie K. (Smith Alzheimer's Center at SIU School of Medicine)

- The group received a lot of inquiries about Dementia Friends after Susan's Dementia Friends talk and presentation on the effects of loneliness at SIU 's Community Day.
- They will be following up with these people by email with more information about Dementia Friends and Dementia Friendly.

Joy D. (Lifescape)

Our task force is moving forward with exciting initiatives. A potential walking path designated for DF, fundraiser, DF Restaurant program. My agency is incorporating all employees becoming Dementia Friends and adding it as part of our onboarding. A couple of other task force agencies are going to incorporate that as well. And I will be speaking in May to a group at the Rock River Center in Oregon, IL. to inform them on how to start a DF community.

Raj S. (Rush)

- The committee is in early-stage discussions about hosting an ICRN conference for Dementia Friendly Communities. Threw out the idea of having the conference at the same time/location as the annual ADAC meeting. It was decided that there's not enough time to prepare for the ADAC Spring meeting in Springfield. We will instead, work towards hosting something for the ADAC meeting in Fall 2025 which will be held in Chicago.

Chrishun B. (Rush)

- Updates to the ICRN website are well underway and some have already been completed. They include:
 - Cosmetic and functional updates to make for easier navigation.
 - A new Dementia Friendly Illinois map which is interactive and highlights all of the Dementia Friendly communities with a link to each of their pages on the ICRN website.
 - Video Library – with over 200 videos uploaded from vetted sources. Topics range from caregiving tips to types of dementia to living with dementia (from the perspective of a person diagnosed) to healthy aging tips. The videos are short snippets (30 secs to 5 mins long) that can be watched on-the-go.

General Information:

- The ICRN is now meeting quarterly.
- Email Chrishun_m_brown@rush.edu if you have announcements to include in email updates to the ICRN listserv.

Next Meeting Wednesday, July 23, 2025