

ICRN Quarterly Meeting Agenda and Minutes – July 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., Elaine J.,

1. DEMENTIA FRIENDLY ILLINOIS

Susan F. (RUSH)

Dementia Friendly

47 – Total Communities

Since beginning of April, 6 communities were recognized

- Mendota
- Galesburg
- Chicago – West Pullman/Roseland
- Downers Grove
- Chicago UARE (Uptown, Andersonville, Roger's Park, and Edgewater)
- Hoffman Estates

2. DEMENTIA FRIENDS ILLINOIS

Susan F. (RUSH)

- 13, 803 – Total Dementia Friends
 - 10, 988 – from in-person talks
 - 2,815 – from online sign-ups
- 344 – People who have attended Dementia Champions training and said they would like to be a Champion
- Monthly breakdown of numbers

- **In-person Dementia Friends talks**
 - April – 302
 - May – 64
 - June – 100
- **Champions**
 - April – 4
 - May - 5
 - June - 2
- Champion training this Friday, July 25th.
- Looking to offer Dementia Friends talks in the prison system
 - Numbers are increasing in inmates who are experiencing dementia symptoms.
 - Dementia Friends talks to prisoners and hopefully continuing education classes for prison staff.
 - Working with contacts from SIU
 - Connected with education coordinator for Cook County prison and working on volunteer application
 - Group discussion around availability of LTC facilities in Illinois for prisoners released from the prison system who have dementia.

3. ILLINOIS HRSA GWEP/ADRD - SHARE

4. MULTI-STATE PLAN ON AGING

Raj S. (Rush)

Gave a committee update on that multi-Sectoral Plan for Aging. It continues to progress and they're working with UIC to do some of the background research they're thinking through for a finished product that will be completed by year's end.

Affirmative pillars focus on the importance and value of aging and how do we make it better in Illinois. It is the committee's goal to make Health Equity and Age Equity the foundation of all the pillars.

Areas of considerations: neighborhood vitality, affordability, access - as key pillars of trying to help people engage.

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

Darby M. (NWM)

- Next ADAC meeting is Monday, October 6th at 1:00 PM
- Elizabeth Simonton, RN BSN, MHA is the new Dementia Coordinator for the state, replacing Jessica Link.

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.
- Legislation was passed for insurance coverage for Alzheimer's treatments. Public Act 104-1

6. Other News/Updates:

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

Continuing to support and partner with "My Mama Jo" documentary of the Caldwell family. We have had 3 movie theatre showings in Springfield, and there have been many other showings through the United States. You can go to their website or to You Tube and find more information.

Panel presenter on dementia at a Caregivers Conference in Springfield. Able to discuss Dementia Friends.

Grant funding received to market to Southern Illinois, very rural, our ECHO program for Memory. Numerous ads placed along with emails and flyers to increase attendance in ECHO. Our August ECHO has 131 registrants so far, mainly due to the IDOA asking us to present a specific topic. We will be having an ECHO this year emphasizing Dementia Friends.

Our next Dementia Caregiving 101 series starts this fall, for 8 weeks. This one will be virtual. We always have one session that discusses Dementia Friends.

Numerous health fairs scheduled this fall.

Elaine J. (SIU)

- Has been giving trainings at the Southern Illinois Pioneer Coalition. A Dementia Friends talk is added to every training. Next training is Tuesday, September 23.

Raj S. (Rush)

- Raj, Darby and Susan will be participating in the Age Guide Aging Summit on Wednesday, September 24.

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, October 22, 2025