

ICRN Quarterly Meeting Agenda and Minutes – October 22, 2025

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

Attendees: Raj S., Chrishun B., Watkins K., Tarisha W., Susan F., Darby M., Elaine J., Elizabeth S., Ananya C. Joy D.,

1. DEMENTIA FRIENDLY ILLINOIS

Susan F. (RUSH)

48 – Total Communities

Since beginning of July, 2 communities were recognized

- Hoffman Estates (July)
- Berwyn (September)
- Several communities are in different stages of the application process. Champaign Urbana is hoping to submit theirs within the next few weeks.

Dementia Friendly Meeting Recap (Susan and Darby)

The Dementia Friendly meeting, held on Wednesday, October 23, was back to a more robust attendance where community representatives attending the meeting were able to talk about their progress and challenges. The group also discussed the survey that Susan provided asking for feedback on meeting topics and better times to meet. The majority of survey respondents indicated that they would like to see the meeting day and times be more flexible – with many agreeing that Mondays and Thursdays were better days to meet on. The discussion will continue at next month's meeting where Susan also has two speakers lined up to present.

2. DEMENTIA FRIENDS ILLINOIS

Susan F. (RUSH)

14,543– Total Dementia Friends (13, 803 as of last meeting)

11,333 – from in-person talks (10, 988 as of last meeting)

3210 – from online sign-ups (2,815 as of last meeting)

396– People who have attended Dementia Champions training and said they would like to be a Champion (344 as of last meeting)

Monthly breakdown of numbers

In-person Dementia Friends talks

July – 72

August – 131

September – 142

Online Sign-ups for 2025

July – September – 117

April – June – 226

January – March - 52

Champions

July – 2

August - 3

September – 47

National Office moving to new Dementia Friends reporting system which will hopefully give us access to online numbers more quickly.

Discussion: Raj S. suggested that as we are nearing some significant milestones (50 Dementia Friendly Communities) and (15,000 Dementia Friends) in Illinois, that the communications team prepare some celebratory social media campaigns highlighting these achievements and challenging readers to help us reach the next milestones – making it a friendly challenge and/or competition with other participating DFLY states.

3. ILLINOIS HRSA GWEP/ADRD - SHARE

4. MULTI-STATE PLAN ON AGING

Elizabeth S. (IDPH)

- IDPH Bold grant just received notice of award for year three. The projects in the work plan are moving forward for the five-year budget period.
- The state's CDC application was also renewed.

Raj. S. (Rush)

The Illinois Department on Aging has been working through a multi sectoral plan for aging based on an executive order by the governor at the end of 2024. The goal: to formulate multiple state agencies under the purview of the governor, to work together to streamline initiatives to improve the lives of the aging population (Age Equity) in Illinois. The group started working on the plan last year. A report of their broad plan (10-year span) and recommendations is due to the governor's office in December 2025. Other states have been asked to submit similar plans. Dr. Shah is serving on the Community Advisory Board.

The four pillars:

1. Create livable and connected communities.
2. Improving affordability of aging in place.
3. Improving caregiver experience and resources.
4. Better health throughout a lifetime.

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

Darby M. (NWM) & Elizabeth S. (IDPH)

- ADAC General Fall Business Meeting was held at NWM. The group continues the process of approving the state 3-year plan. No new Dementia Friends and Dementia Friendly initiatives are in the plan; however, the plan still includes initiatives from the previous – so the work continues. A subcommittee was formed to delve into the goals, objectives, and implementation of the 3-year plan.
- The BOLD Grant team from Rush also attended this meeting to give an update on their progress on initiatives surrounding creating dementia modules to educate the workforce – one module particularly focuses on first responders and the banking industry.
- Also attending the meeting were advocates for expanding the Illinois SLP Program (Supportive Living Community Program). The issue raised: currently, program benefits support people over the age of 65 living with dementia. The concern is that it completely leaves out the demographic of people with Early (Young) Onset Alzheimer's who are younger than 65 but who can equally benefit from this program.

6. Alzheimer's Association

Raj s. (Rush)

- The Alzheimer's Association has been working on bipartisan bill to be passed surrounding the education of primary care providers around early detection of Alzheimer's disease.
- Annual meeting December 6, 2025

7. Other News/Updates:

Elaine J. (SIU Carbondale)

- A training event took place as a collaboration between SIUC Gerontology program and Southern Illinois Coalition, with about 60 participants trained as Dementia Friends.
- We are working on Dementia Friendly Herrin. We have started training in different sectors and have the Chamber of Commerce involved. We have a solid committee. (Note: as reported by Becky Salazar, Egyptian Area Agency on Aging.

Joy D. (Lifescope Community Services, Rockford, IL)

- The task force Gave a DFLY talk in Oregon, IL.
- They are also working with restaurants in Winnebago County and Rockford. The goal: to create DFLY restaurants that have accessible bathrooms and patient and understanding staff and servers.

General Information:

- This was our last meeting of the year. We will be sending out an email with updates and announcements at the end of November.
- Email Chrishun_m_brown@rush.edu if you have announcements to include in email updates to the ICRN listserv.

Next Meeting Wednesday, January 28, 2026