

Monroe County Dementia & Brain Health Coalition

Meeting Minutes for: March 7, 2024

Attendees: Michael Bonello, Sue Rettler, April Anderson, Kelsey Hanson, Emily Reitz and Toni Kenyon at the ADRC. Barb Iwanowicz, Sarah Snyder, and Carole Ewald participated remotely via Teams.

Michael Bonello facilitated the meeting at the ADRC. The attendees were introduced and the minutes from February were reviewed. April clarified that the resources mentioned in the minutes – the podcast, Dementia Matters is actually two separate entities. They are listed below, along with their website links.

Old Business

Michael shared that he had been contacted by staff from Ho Chunk, stating they were appreciative of receiving the info from the coalition. The coalition had wanted to establish a connection with Ho Chunk, so this outreach was timely.

Emily will share an updated email listing of the coalition membership.

Upcoming Dementia Events and Training

The coalition was reminded that the state Alzheimer's Association Conference is being held May 5 – 6 at the Kalahari in the Dells.

The coalition will look to sponsoring some type of event to recognize the longest day, June 20th. Discussions will be on the agenda for next month.

The VA is holding a Caregiver's Summit April 23rd, at the VA. This event will include a resource fair that the coalition and the Alzheimer's Association will participate in. Toni has been in communication with Barb.

Discussed offering Dementia friendly training and outreach to the community once again. This could be to businesses and/or community organizations. There are trainings that are tailored to different audiences.

The coalition will submit an article for the ADRC Connect monthly newsletter. It will need to be submitted by the 2nd Friday of the month. It would be submitted via Word Document, emailed to Pam Weber at the ADRC. April Anderson has volunteered for the first submission.

The Mental Health Coalition is sponsoring an event on May 16th in Mueller Square that is focusing on mental health. This is partnered by the Safe Community Coalition, the Nutrition Coalition, and the Suicide Prevention Task Force. This group intends of this becoming an annual event rotated between Sparta and Tomah. The Dementia and Brain Health Coalition can participate with a hut to display resources and information.

The Health Department is working on their event – the Greatest Gift you will ever receive. The focus being on safety (falls prevention) for seniors, with the ADRC providing funds to provide actual resource packs to participants. A date has not yet been determined.

Emily and Sarah are co-facilitating Boost Your Brain and Memory this spring, an 8 week course at the Sparta Library.

On March 26th, Emily and Heidi Neeley, with the Alzheimer's Association, is putting on a Dementia Live event, along with a session on the 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's Disease. This will be held at the ADRC.

General Updates

The Project lifesaver program is in limbo at this point. It is not being utilized and there is a question if there are funds still attached to the program. Michael will follow up with Julie Anderson to attempt to get some clarification on the financial side of things, and Emily will reach out to the Sheriff's Dept to identify a point of contact there.

The coalition needs to refresh it's branding and marketing material. Discussed updating the website and increasing Face Book presence. Michael is meeting with Steve Peterson to accomplish some of this activity.

April provided links to the resources she discussed at last month's meeting.

- Center for Healthy Minds: <https://centerhealthyminds.org/>
- "Dementia Matters" podcast: <https://www.adrc.wisc.edu/dementia-matters>

The next meeting is Thursday, April 4, at 3:00. The meeting will be at the ADRC, with the option to participate via Teams meeting.

Submitted by:

Toni Kenyon