

Dementia Friendly Monroe County Coalition

Meeting Minutes for: June 1, 2023

Attendees: Emily Reitz, Sue Rettler, and Toni Kenyon appeared in person at the Human Service Building. Barb Ivanowski (VA – Tomah), and Kelsey Hanson participated via Zoom.

Emily Reitz facilitated the meeting via Zoom. The meetings will no longer be recorded, as the ADRC does not have a cloud account and the recordings are too cumbersome to share.

Updates:

The coalition was made aware of recent staff changes within the Alzheimer's Association. Emily noted that 6 staff were laid off in Wisconsin. Heidi Neeley our contact was one of the individuals affected. Kate Kahles, out of the Green Bay office will be providing us support until further notice. The association is shifting their focus to fund raising and research.

Emily shared that she had attended the recent Alzheimer's Association State Conference in Wisconsin Dells. One of the workshop sessions she attended focused on getting youth involved in dementia care giving – a concept she feels could be of benefit. She has made attempts to connect with school staff, but so far has not been successful. She will continue this over the summer. The coalition could provide Dementia Friendly training to students. Sue suggested reaching out to Toby Oswald, the Principal at the Middle School.

Toni noted that the Tomah Hospital will once again sponsor the Senior Expo in Tomah this fall. This would be a good venue for the Dementia Coalition to participate in (partner w/ the ADRC and the Alzh Assoc).

The mission statement update from the previous month's meeting was questioned by Emily – as she wanted to include it in the heading/letter head of her correspondence. The statement was as follows: Building a dementia friendly community through collaborative partnerships by raising awareness, providing education, and encouraging community engagement to enhance quality of life and promote positive outcomes. The group was to take a look at this to finalize the format.

A discussion took place regarding the coalition membership and how we can get more people involved. Emily suggested that we look to our members and draw from the strengths that each individual has to offer. She shared that she is an idea person – but lacks the follow through (in part due to taking on more than feasible, and not asking for help). Individual connections to the community and other resources is a strength to bring to the coalition as well.

Longest Day Event

Emily shared info about the upcoming Longest Day event. It will be held on June 21st from 12 – 4 at the Methodist Church in Sparta. The film – It snows all the time - will be viewed and followed by a discussion. The VA, RSVP, ADRC, the Health Dept and the Alz Association will have resource materials to share. Subs, popcorn, and ice cream will be provided. Emily will be developing media releases and community flyers. Participants need to register to attend.

The next meeting is Thursday, July 6, at 3:00. The plan is to share the Dementia Friendly training material to the coalition.

Submitted by:

Toni Kenyon