

## **Dementia Friendly Monroe County Coalition**

**Meeting Minutes for:** March 2, 2023.

**Attendees:** Emily Reitz, Janessa Peterson, Carole Ewald (VA – Tomah), Sarah Snyder (Sparta Library), Ryan Lee (Sheriff's Dept), Michael Bonello, and Toni Kenyon.

Emily Reitz facilitated the meeting via Zoom. Emily noted that the meetings are being taped and will eventually be available thru our web-site. On a temporary basis they will be saved via the cloud with the coalition being provided a link.

### **Project updates:**

The Remember Project and their plays was going to be pursued. Updates were coming from Heidi, who was unable to attend today. Toni will follow up with Heidi and the Alzheimer's Association about this presenter option for a Sparta or Monroe County event. The focus will be on care giver support.

Emily works with the RSVP program within Monroe County. Volunteers have been involved with the Little Heart Project – knitting little hearts focusing on suicide prevention and acts of kindness.

Carole shared that the VA is picking up their programming on suicide prevention and awareness. She notes that a diagnosis of dementia increases the risk factor of suicide activity. The VA has medication and gun safety (including trigger locks) material for sharing with the community.

Ryan shared that law enforcement is sponsoring an event at the Tomah High School on Substance Abuse Awareness. This is scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup> and is geared for the high school population – but certainly an issue for any age group.

### **2023 Calendar Activity.**

Dementia Friendly Community training – Julie providing a demo of the community friendly dementia training for the group was tabled. Emily noted that some of the material might need to be updated. Emily will check in to this and seek updates if indicated.

The coalition remains interested in sponsoring some form of event to recognize the “longest day” and care givers. Emily was going to check in to availability within the Barney Center for the 21<sup>st</sup> of June.

The next meeting is Thursday, April 6, at 3:00. The plan is to continue with this schedule (1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at 3:00 via zoom). Sue Rettler was going to look in to an option to hold the coalition meetings in person at the County Building within the Human Service section.

Submitted by:

Tonya Kenyon