

Monroe County Dementia & Brain Health Coalition

Meeting Minutes for: February 1, 2024

Attendees: Michael Bonello, Sue Rettler, April Anderson, Kelsey Hanson, and Toni Kenyon

Michael Bonello facilitated the meeting at the ADRC. The meeting was also to be available via Teams meeting, however, there was a glitch in being able to accept others to the meeting. Michael has stepped forward and agreed to serve as the Chairperson for the coalition.

2024 Events and Coalition Ideas

Discussed the need to identify the function of the coalition. It was determined that the focus would be on education and outreach in the community. Partnerships would remain with the Alzheimer's Association and the ADRC. Heidi Neeley has returned to her role with the Alzheimer's Association, and remains a resource for the ADRC and the coalition. The coalition would also be able to draw from the expertise and work relationships of its members – the health department/extension office/library for example.

It was suggested that the coalition reach out to Ho Chunk and the VA to establish communication and the awareness of the coalitions ability to provide support for education and outreach in the topics of brain health and dementia. Barb Iwanowicz from the VA participates in the coalition. The coalition is connected with the Tomah Hospital and has participated in the Senior Health Expo event, which is held each fall. Kelsey discussed an event that the Health Dept has coming up – the Greatest Gift You Will Receive. This is an event in partnership with the ADRC which also focuses on falls prevention. Wisconsin has the highest death rate relating to falls in the US. The ADRC has a grant that will allow for the purchase of supplies/adaptive aides for the event.

The coalition would still look to provide some type of experience to recognize the Longest Day in June. An event for care givers.

The possibility of the coalition submitting an article for the ADRC Connect monthly newsletter was raised as a means to provide that outreach and education. Following the meeting it was confirmed by Pam Weber at the ADRC that an article would be welcome. It would need to be submitted by the 2nd Friday of the month. It would be submitted via Word Document, emailed to the ADRC. There would be no limit to the number of words – but a lengthy article was not anticipated.

General Updates

Sarah, from the Sparta Library had previously shared info on a grant that she is pursuing thru the library system for \$2,500. The funds would be targeted for direct service providers of individuals experiencing dementia. Allowing for training and support. As a follow up to the meeting it was learned that the funds for the grant were needed to be shifted to a different project – internal to the library.

Michael had not been able to connect with Steve regarding the website. The site needs to be updated with current info regarding the name change and general updates. He will also follow up with Emily regarding the Purple Tube training and whether that can be linked to the website.

A couple of resources were identified by the group:

Dementia matters Podcast thru Center for healthy minds – UW Madison

Strong Bodies – Classes for falls prevention

Loan Closet – resource in Tomah Senior Center for adaptive aides and medical equipment. Pam Buchda is contact.

Dementia-friendly-America@googlegroups.com

Wisconsin EMS and Falls Report

The next meeting is Thursday, 7 March, at 3:00. The meeting will be at the ADRC, with the option to participate via Teams meeting.

Submitted by:

Toni Kenyon