

Dementia Friendly Monroe County Coalition

Meeting Minutes for: September 7, 2023

Attendees: Emily Reitz and Toni Kenyon appeared in person at the Human Service Building. Kelsey Hanson, Michel Bonello, Janessa Peterson, Jill Monroe, and Sarah Snyder participated via Zoom.

Emily Reitz facilitated the meeting via Zoom. Introductions took place.

Updates:

Emily reminded the coalition of the upcoming Healthy Aging Expo being held in Tomah on Thursday, Oct 19th. The ADRC and the coalition/dementia specialist will have a booth. She also reviewed that the Memory Café has relocated to the Sparta Senior Meal Site (vs Perkins in Tomah). The attendance still remains low at 2 – 4 members.

Re-branding the Dementia Friendly Coalition

Emily discussed the topic of renaming our coalition with the hope that removing the ‘dementia’ from the name would open the door to further involvement and impact and/or reach more individuals. Kelsey, with the health department, again mentioned the stigma attached to the dementia diagnosis and supported the shift of focus to overall brain health. Expanding the coalition’s focus to overall brain health and risk reduction – could include autism awareness, stroke prevention, the various dementias, and even TBIs. The name Brain Health Coalition of Monroe County was put forward by Emily.

The group needs to identify what their mission statement, function, and activities will be going forward.

Michael raised concerns about the coalition being able to support the additional topics and diagnosis involved – not feeling like an expert in the new subgroups being considered.

The Google Running Document created by Emily will remain available. The coalition can add their ideas for the coalition’s potential shift in focus. Emily will reach out to the computer consultant Top Dog regarding the process of updating our website.

The next meeting is Oct 5th, at 3:00. It will be held at the Human Service building, with the option to participate via zoom.

Submitted by:

Toni Kenyon