

Dementia Friendly Monroe County Coalition

Meeting Minutes for: January 2, 2023.

Attendees: Sue Rettler, Emily Reitz, Carole Ewald, Kelsey Hanson, Barb Iwanowicz, and Toni Kenyon.

Emily Reitz facilitated the meeting via Zoom. Introductions took place. Carole shared that in her position with the VA her focus is Suicide prevention and risk factor identification. She also noted that she has personal experience with the dementia diagnosis. Kelsey has work experience in an assisted living setting with the dementia population.

Project updates:

Michael Bonello was not in attendance but he had provided an update to share. He is continuing to reach out to schools within the county to facilitate the integration of the Grandpa and Lucy programming (Climb info).

The Remember Project and their plays was going to be pursued. Updates were coming from Heidi, who was unable to attend today.

Ryan had provided examples of flyers that law enforcement had utilized to promote the canine unit (to be utilized as marketing and outreach for the coalition). Barb also has some brochure options that she will provide to Emily to utilize as templates.

2023 Calendar Activity

Coalition Outreach – Toni was unable to connect with Amanda at the library to see if she would be a resource to assist in the development of our material. Amanda has left her position at the library (relocated to the LaX school system). Toni will follow up with new Adult Librarian staff once the individual is settled in (Sue ? was hired and started 2/1/23). Emily noted that the coalition could have swag and/or ‘give aways’ with the coalition identified for those community events. Discussed developing our own image for marketing or maintaining our connection to the Purple Angel image.

Dementia Friendly Community training – Action regarding Julie providing a demo of the community friendly dementia training for the group was tabled.

The coalition remains interested in sponsoring some form of event to recognize the “longest day” and care givers. Heidi provided Toni with the name of Jenn Taylor from UWL as a potential option for a presenter for a care giver event in 2023. A program called “The happiness project for caregivers” is something that comes out of the Therapy-Rec Dept at the university (608-785-8216).

The idea of partnering with the Senior Center in Tomah or the Senior Meal Sites was mentioned as options. In general, the coalition needs to determine who we are and what we will offer the community (mission statement).

Emily has a couple of resources that she will send out to the group following the meeting (hand massage and care giver info).

The next meeting is Thursday, March 2nd, at 3:00. The plan is to continue with this schedule (1st Thursday at 3:00 via zoom) going forward.

Submitted by:

Tonya Kenyon