

## **Dementia Friendly Monroe County Coalition**

### **Meeting Minutes for: August 3, 2023**

**Attendees:** Emily Reitz and Toni Kenyon appeared in person at the Human Service Building. Kelsey Hanson, Janessa Peterson, Barb Iwanowicz, and Sarah Snyder participated via Zoom.

Emily Reitz facilitated the meeting via Zoom.

#### **Updates:**

Emily reviewed the National Night Out event which was held in Tomah on August 1st. The attendance was good, with multi-age groups represented. Emily has learned to provide an attraction to the children – which also brings the adults in to the booth for a conversation. She utilized a bubble machine and temporary tattoos to accomplish that.

Emily also noted the upcoming Healthy Aging Expo being held in Tomah on Thursday, Oct 19<sup>th</sup>. The ADRC and the coalition/dementia specialist will have a booth.

#### **Re-branding the Dementia Friendly Coalition**

Emily raised the possibility of rethinking our coalition – due in part to the low participation – with the idea to expand the focus beyond just the topic of dementia. Kelsey, with the health department, added that much of their focus has shifted to overall brain health and cognitive deficits. This is not just a topic for and/or about the elder age group. 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 caregivers who could benefit from information, outreach, and support would also expand.

Emily will put out a Google Running Document that individuals from the coalition can add their ideas for the coalition's potential shift in focus (looking at renaming and revamping our mission statement). Emily will also be updating the coalition list of active members.

The next meeting is Sept 7th, at 3:00. The meeting will be spent looking at the coalition's name change/purpose/mission statement. It will be held at the Human Service building, with the option to participate via zoom.

Submitted by:

Toni Kenyon