Dementia Friendly Nevada (DFNV) Statewide Meeting
Monday, October 11, 2021 | 1:00 - 3:00 PM | Zoom Videoconference

In attendance: Casey Acklin, Jennifer Carson, Chris Bravo, Kate Ingalsby, Magda Kaczmarska, LeeAnn Mandarino, Annie Monnig-Reid, Chuck McClatchey, Peter Reed, Leslie Fuller, Susan Farris, Phillip Kalsman, Daniela Cortes-Arriola, Brittni Taynor, Justen Watts, Gini Cunningham, Tonya Brum, Charae Wamsley-Gipson, Rebecca Hepworth, Gina Joliff, Verla Niebuhr, Cory Lutz, Mary Lee Fulkerson, Carla Eben, Cheryl McElroy, Sarah Rively, Niki Rubarth, Charles Duarte, 3 Guests

Co-Facilitators:
- Jennifer Carson, Director, Dementia Engagement, Education and Research (DEER) Program, UNR, and Program Director, DFNV
- Casey Acklin, Coordinator, DEER Program, UNR, and Program Coordinator, DFNV

Community Group Co-Facilitators:
- LeeAnn Mandarino and Kate Ingalsby, Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, Dementia Friendly Southern Nevada Urban
- Tonya Brum, Nevada Rural Counties RSVP, Dementia Friendly Pahrump
- Carla Eben, Numaga Program, Pesa Soo name Advisory Group
- Gini Cunningham, Age- and Dementia-Friendly Winnemucca
- TBD, Dementia Friendly Douglas County

Support:
- Daniela Cortes-Arriola, Graduate Assistant, DFNV

Dementia Friendly Nevada is supported through funding from the Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division and the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health.
Meeting Notes

1. Welcome (20 min)

   a. As members are logging onto Zoom, please use the ‘Chat Box’ feature, using a single entry (hitting “return” only at the very end), to share your:
      
      - Name
      - Role in supporting people living with dementia and/or family care partners

   b. Let’s all have some fun saying “Hello!”

      Magda led members through an activity of saying “Hello” using body and voice

   c. Review Dementia Friendly Nevada mission and meeting purpose

      - Mission: By working together, we aim to develop and promote communities that are **respectful**, **educated**, **supportive** and **inclusive** of persons **living** with dementia and their care partners.

   d. Review one Dementia Friendly Nevada Mobilizing Belief*

      - **Mobilizing Belief #14**: Supporting engagement, autonomy and partnerships with people living with dementia will promote improvements to their quality of life and well-being, and strengthen the social fabric of communities. Elders need communities and communities need elders.

      - Let’s hear from 2 members about why this Mobilizing Belief is so important.
LeeAnn Mandarino: Elders provide such a wealth of experience. It's always important to learn from them, hear what they have to say, and never dismiss them.

Chuck McClatchey: To work with younger people, have them talk with us and be around us, see what we’re capable of: that’s how things change. That’s how we change minds, and change the reality for people living with dementia.

2. Learn: Storytelling in Action - Theme: Teamwork (30 min)

**Storytelling In Action** is a movement-based creative engagement program designed to offer people living with dementia an opportunity for expression, community-building, and meaning-making. The program is built on the twin ideas that:

- Communication and engagement are the building blocks of our communities.

- Our brains and our bodies possess multiple pathways for connection and multiple modes of communication.

Participants in the **Storytelling In Action** program engage in facilitated “conversations” that grow their communication resources by activating the body in the creative process of “speaking” and “listening”.

The **Storytelling In Action** program is developed by Magda Kaczmarska and Chris Bravo.
Magda Kaczmarska is a dancer's, choreographer and creative aging teaching artist based in New York City. Magda is passionate about facilitating community access to dance and exploring ways to use dance to strengthen community relationships. She co-founded Evolve Dance~West, a creative movement program based in Arizona, and was a lead teacher with Dances for a Variable Population. Currently Magda is an Atlantic Fellow for Equity in Brain Health at the Global Brain Health Institute.

Chris Bravo is a filmmaker and artist based in Brooklyn, NY. His work focuses on building platforms that can elevate and amplify the voices of people and communities that are facing processes of marginalization and displacement.

Let’s experience some Storytelling in Action!

1. Warm up
2. Say your Name, and come up with a movement (your signature move!)
3. Check in - Teamwork & Collaboration
4. Story In Action - Weaving Fabric

3. Reflect (30 min)

a. Ball Passing: What is one resource that I bring to the DFNV community (in 1-3 words)?

   - Movement
   - Experience
   - Commitment to inclusion
b. Thinking of Dementia Friendly Nevada as a team...
   ● What are the different roles team members play?
     ● Collaboration; working together to serve a diverse state
     ● Empowerment, of people living with dementia and of the entire community
     ● Local champions
     ● Commitment, from everyone, from top to bottom
     ● Balancing different strengths; bringing our own strengths and passions and trusting others will bring other aspects
     ● Finding shared experiences and expertise; we all come with different perspectives, and that diversity is what makes us so successful as a team
     ● Having faith that we are all acting as one initiative, even as we live in different places
     ● We embrace collaborative goals, setting aside personal and organizational ones to come together in action
     ● Partnering with people living with dementia and listening authentically

   ● What roles are missing that would strengthen our team?

   This question was not discussed.

   ● What tools and resources do we need to play our roles?

   This question was not discussed.

c. Build a Story In Action, together!
4. **Strategize** (30 min)

a. What questions do you have for Magda and Chris about Storytelling in Action?

b. How does your experience with Storytelling in Action connect with your conception of teamwork and collaboration within DFNV?

c. How can we use Storytelling in Action as a community-building force in Nevada? How can Storytelling in Action help strengthen the DFNV efforts?

There are ways that we can engage in conversation within DFNV that isn’t just talking. If we are truly to be dementia-friendly and inclusive, we must be committed to the power of nonverbal, physical, embodied communication. And as Storytelling in Action shows, this can happen on Zoom, not just in-person!

If we want to continue to strengthen our membership from people living with dementia, Storytelling in Action might be a tool for engagement, not just for people living with dementia but to strengthen all of our collective storytelling.

Storytelling in Action could be incorporated into Dementia Friendly Nevada as an approach, recording our discussions using movement in a fashion similar to using a graphic recorder to illustrate a conversation. Engaging members in performing, acting out the conversation that took place as a way to document it.
One more Story In Action:

a. Ball Passing: What is one thing I can do in the next week to make Nevada more Dementia Friendly?

Think about something you can do in the near future to support the wellbeing of people living with dementia and family care partners. No action is too big or small!

Share (5 min)

a. Is there anything happening locally—or across the state or nation—that members of DFNV should know about and can possibly help promote?

  If you would like to attend, email iamdirect@gmail.com

  Leslie Fuller: Launched a new program called “Inspired Senior Care.” Designed not just to train long-term care staff, but to help create culture in a community by teaching relational skills and the importance of communication in developing relationships with residents. https://inspiredseniorcare.org

  LeeAnn: Welcome Justen Watts, who will be a new Co-Facilitator for Dementia Friendly Southern Nevada Urban!

  Niki Rubarth: Welcome Sarah Rively, the new Community Engagement Manager for the Alzheimer’s Association in Northern Nevada.

  Thank you for all that you do to make our communities and state dementia-friendly and inclusive!