



Health Leaders Strategize the Advancement of Optimal Dementia Care Practices

Summit ignites conversation and ideation on the growing role of health care organizations in addressing Alzheimer's

On February 26, 2015, 100 health care leaders from across Minnesota and beyond came together at an ACT on Alzheimer's facilitated *Health Leadership Summit on Adoption of Optimal Dementia Care Practices* using ACT on Alzheimer's provider practice tools. Leaders in attendance represented health plans, health systems, clinics and clinical providers, community health providers, state government, academia, advocates for people with Alzheimer's, and others. The working session marked the beginning of a focused effort on embedding the ACT provider practice tools into care practices of Minnesota providers.

Marvin J. Lofquist, Ph.D., Retired Associate Dean of the Weinberg College of Arts & Sciences at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, who has Alzheimer's, opened the summit by charging the health care community with his five hopes:

1. See me and interact with me as a person.
2. See my care partner and wife, Elaine, as a vital member of my/our care team. "If she falls, I fall."
3. Appreciate that I know I have this disease and, armed with that knowledge, I can take steps to minimize its impact on me and plan for a future when I cannot make decisions.
4. Equip yourselves and be willing to support my clinical needs as my disease evolves, which also means recognizing that a significant portion of the care and support you can offer me is outside of the clinic walls; connect me to such care and support.
5. Work within and across your organizations and, if needed, out of your comfort zones to strive for shared standards, metrics and implementation of optimal dementia care.

Minnesota is becoming the national model for how a state prepares for the impacts of Alzheimer's disease. At the Summit, participants worked together to identify barriers for providing optimal dementia care and considered strategies to overcome them and to make optimal dementia care a priority within their organizations.

Participants will pursue some or all of these next steps:

- Make dementia a priority quality improvement initiative within their organizations;
- Create standardized quality metrics for dementia;
- Connect patients to community support resources; and
- Build awareness to normalize and de-stigmatize dementia as a chronic disease.