Today’s Presentation

• Overview of ACT on Alzheimer’s
• What does “dementia-friendly” mean?
• Introduce ACT on Alzheimer’s Toolkit and process
• Update on MN’s dementia-friendly communities
Collaborative Goals/Common Agenda

5 shared goals with a Health Equity perspective

Equip Communities and Raise Awareness

- Develop a Community Toolkit to foster dementia-friendly communities
- Support community implementation of the toolkit

www.actonalz.org/toolkit

Equip Communities

Funders: Blue Plus (HMO affiliate of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota); Medica Foundation; Greater Twin Cities United Way

Dementia-Friendly Community
Dementia- Friendly Health Care

- Identify and diagnose dementia, educate patients and caregivers and refer to community resources
- Actions:
  - Training on dementia
  - Administer objective assessments
  - Use ACT on Alzheimer’s clinical practice tools
  - Offer disease specific information and information on community services and supports

Dementia- Friendly Community-Based Supports

- Supports that help people maintain independence and quality of life
- Actions:
  - Service providers who use best practices in serving people with dementia
  - Dementia specific education, counseling and support
  - Meaningful engagement activities: memory café, art, music, dance

Dementia- Friendly Financial/Legal Services

- Legal and financial advisors may be the first to identify cognitive decline
- Actions:
  - Education on recognizing dementia
  - Webinars on assessing client capacity, elder abuse, neglect and exploitation
  - Know the local services to help people with dementia and their caregivers
**Dementia- Friendly Faith Community**

- Safe, supportive and welcoming environment for people with dementia
- Actions:
  - Offer dementia training to clergy or staff
  - Support the person with dementia: offer short devotions, encourage participation in services as appropriate
  - Support the caregiver: recognize signs of caregiver stress and refer to appropriate resources
  - Create a dementia friendly environment

**Dementia- Friendly Residential/Memory Loss Services**

- Residential settings that serve and support people with dementia
- Actions:
  - Identify champions for maintaining dementia readiness across the organization
  - Educate and train all staff about dementia
  - Manage dementia across the continuum using best care practices

**Dementia- Friendly Businesses**

- Businesses that are meeting the needs of customers and employees
- Actions:
  - Educate staff on dementia and effective communication skills
  - Become aware of local services to help people with dementia
  - Ensure the environment is dementia friendly
  - Offer support to caregiver employees
Dementia-Friendly Local Government

- Dementia awareness in community planning and emergency response
- Actions:
  - Provide dementia training to city/county staff who work with the public, emergency responders and law enforcement

33 Dementia-Friendly Communities

Four-Phase Toolkit Process

1. **Convene** key community leaders and members to form an Action Team.
2. **Assess** current strengths and gaps within the community.
3. **Analyze** findings to understand your community's needs and develop a plan to take action.
4. **ACT Together** to pursue priority goals that foster community readiness for dementia.
St. Louis Park

- Placed Alzheimer’s-related books in free little libraries
- Hosted free screening of “Still Alice”
- Created book club kits includes 10 books, bookmarks and study group questions
- Web presence on city website

St. Paul Neighborhoods

- 9 Dementia Champions trainings held, 87 Dementia Champions
- 65+ Friends Sessions have been held
- 650+ individuals attended Dementia Friends sessions in 2014, many more will become Friends in 2015
- 2,500+ SPN ACT Brochures, bookmarks, and 350+ resource packet materials handed out

Roseville

- Education sessions for the general community and family caregivers
- Sponsor 4 movies with facilitated discussions
- Community events are mechanism to recruit volunteers
- Web presence on city website
Cambridge

- Private screening of “I’ll be Me”
- Dementia education for physicians
- Guest editorials in local paper
- Project lifesaver in partnership with Isanti County Sheriff department

Edina

- Offer 8 Dementia Friends sessions each hosted by a separate Edina organization
- Use session as opportunity to recruit volunteers to enhance existing caregiver support programs

Walker

Focus on dementia-friendly businesses
- Brief overview of 10 signs, brochure and ACT DF resources
- Workshops on AD, impacts on the workplace and sector specific small group discussions
Twin Cities Jewish Community

- Rabbi trainings
- Film series with facilitated small group discussion
- Dementia Friends
- Will pilot teen training 3/2015
- Caregiver conference scheduled for 5/2015

Paynesville

- Education for medical personnel, first responders/police, faith community
- Dementia friends
- AD books for public library and elementary school
- Targeted outreach weekly at local grocery store

Challenges

- Some communities have struggled with membership, supportive components (fiscal agents) and leadership
- Some communities wanted to focus on a pre-existing program and don’t consider the possibility that the surveys will be identifying something else (need to be very open minded)
- Some communities had had difficulty getting representation on their committee from all sectors (could be location of community)
Observations

- Communities surprised by their community knowledge
- Communities thinking they knew what the survey process would reveal and the end result was not that at all
- Communities unaware of resources, programs and services already available and in some cases—still choosing to replicate

Thank you!

Learn more at www.ACTonALZ.org

Sign up for the ACT e-news at: info@ACTonALZ.org

View latest happenings by visiting the ACT website, including In the News, Facebook page, and Twitter feed.