

**Dementia Care Excellence Oversight Committee Meeting Notes**  
***Overseeing Implementing of San Francisco's Strategy for Excellence in Dementia Care***

Friday, February 17, 2015

Present: Sherrie Matza, Andrea Korsunsky, Elizabeth Edgerly, Jennifer Shannon, Jill Nielsen, Carla Perisonotto, Brooke Hollister, Shireen McSpadden, Jarmin Yeh, Cindy Kauffman, Cathy Spensley, Ruth Gay (chair)

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**Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Project -- Carla Perissinotto / Jill Nielsen --**

Carla and Jill provided an update on GWEP. The goal of the project is for SF citizens to be familiar with dementia. Under this grant, UCSF is involved in education of clinicians, and want to work with other groups to provide training outside of clinicians. Work with DAAS is currently ongoing regarding training needs, including where does GWEP fit while not duplicating what is now available.

Carla discussed the algorithm for screening, which can then lead to referrals to resources. They would like to teach primary care providers on how to handle dementia in general, and then identify a smaller group of specialists.

Special populations, and therefore areas of focus, are on those that live alone and the LGBT community.

There was acknowledgement of a number of both training opportunities and training gaps. The group decided to re-convene the education and training workgroup. GWEP can participate in a needs assessment that can help identify current training needs. This effort can include putting something together to show all trainings available, including focus, participants, and target groups, as well as specific topics.

Carla volunteered to organize a meeting or schedule a conference call to coordinate efforts.

**Emergency Room Diversion Project -- Andrea Korsunsky --**

Emergency rooms often see people with dementia who may be better served elsewhere and / or emergency rooms could benefit from training in working with people with dementia. There is conversation about the community using the ER for non-acute situations when don't know what to do with difficult behaviors and issues that may or may not be clinically acute.

The group is looking at strategies to change that experience and looking at a standardized approach.

Mike Splain of Cognitive Solutions has a training called, "Thinking about Thinking," that provides training to ERs on this topic.

He wrote a proposal based on our needs and based on his group's professional experience in this area. Mike's plan suggests a 1-day summit to look at best practices and how to implement standardized procedures. The summit would include ER departments and their experiences.

His proposal is a way to look at options. Ruth suggests it is important to include and engage the ERs in planning in what solutions would look like. The problem is so big. We want to help families before they go to the ER and what happens at the ER.

The problem is large, but need to start with something. It is suggested that we need a pilot to work off of, such as ACE at SFGH or Mt. Sinai in NYC geriatric ER. A next step is a discussion with Edgar from ACE and Carla, with a small group.

It is helpful to start costing out models. The LTCCC Finance and Policy workgroup can look at cost implications and opportunities, and can tease out some of that information. Cindy, Ruth, and Andrea will attend next Finance and Policy workgroup meeting on 3/16, 11am – 12:30pm.

**Dementia Safety Net Project update -- Jennifer Shannon --**

The project is working with SF Village, Little Brothers, and openhouse to target individuals who live alone and LGBT individuals who live alone.

Staff are currently receiving training on how to work with seniors in identifying cognitive needs.

They are looking at assistive technologies, including passive technologies. There is acknowledgement and discussion on ethics and privacy concerns.

Current activity is 18 referrals and 5 individuals enrolled in the project.

In the work with openhouse, they are using the friendly visitors program, so the individual is working with someone they already know and trust to explore the referral.

The tech council has some dementia projects in the works, and Shireen will bring these ideas to the tech council steering committee to put on the agenda.

Transportation Peer Escort Pilot update -- *Cathy Spensley* –

The project continues to do recruitment for peer escorts who are low income seniors who receive a stipend. The peer escorts are on group vans and assist the client from the ADHC to the client home.

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Next meeting – To be determined