



NEWSLTR

A PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ELDER AFFAIRS

SHARING SYMPOSIUM On May 14-15, community leaders from across the state discussed Age-Friendly and Dementia-Caring practices to ensure that all Floridians are not just living, but living well! Read more on page 3.

PICTURED BELOW

Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez and Elder Affairs Secretary Richard Prudom attend the 4th Annual Sharing Symposium.



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GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS HIGHLIGHTS KEY INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT FLORIDIANS WITH ALZHEIMER'S

By Governor's Staff

On March 14th, Governor Ron DeSantis highlighted key initiatives aimed at supporting Floridians living with Alzheimer's and their caretakers. Speaking at the Evening of Hope fundraiser hosted by the Alzheimer's Association in Palm Beach, the Governor outlined the measures taken by his administration.

"Floridians living with Alzheimer's deserve our support and as long as I'm Governor, they can count on it," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "I'm proud to announce our administration has taken important steps to ensure our state assists these

individuals in getting the care they deserve and prioritizes the advancement of research needed for this disease."

"Our administration is committed to working diligently to improve the lives of Floridians living with Alzheimer's," said Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez, who has been a prominent leader on health care throughout her time in the Florida House of Representatives and now through her work in the administration.

As the number of Floridians with this disease continues to grow, our state must take bold steps to find innovative solutions aimed at

assisting these residents."

"I'm extremely grateful that Governor DeSantis is demonstrating strong leadership to take Alzheimer's research and awareness to the next level," said Richard Prudom, Secretary of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs.



Photo Credit: Office of the Governor Press Team

WEAAD SUMMIT

By Allison Bryant

Communities across the world joined in raising awareness of elder abuse and neglect during the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day: an initiative established by the United Nations and the World Health Organization. In Tallahassee, the Florida Department of Elder Affairs held a World Elder Abuse Awareness Summit with approximately 180 people in attendance. A welcome from the Department of Elder Affairs Secretary Richard Prudom, Tallahassee Police Chief Michael DeLeo, Leon County Police Chief Chris Summers, and an insightful poem from Pastor Kenneth Frame kick-started the morning. The day's activities included various exhibitors who provided local resources to attendees and break-out sessions that ranged from topics of cyber-crime prevention to predatory scam calls. The summit concluded with Statewide Prosecutor Nick Cox, leaving the attendees with a motivating speech about educating themselves and others on elder abuse.



WCTV Eyewitness News anchor Julie Montanaro speaks to the summit attendees



UPCOMING EVENTS:

July 27-31

N4A Conference in New Orleans. For more information or to register visit n4aconference.org

August 19-21

Florida Council on Aging Conference in Orlando. For more

information or to register visit fcoa.org/Conference

September 8-11

SE Area Agency on Aging Conference in Tennessee. For more information or to register visit se4a.org

September 10-13

APA Florida Annual Conference in Sandestin. For more information on the event, visit <https://florida.planning.org/events/chapter-conference/>

September 23-24

3rd Annual Florida Supportive Housing Coalition's Summit in Orlando. For more information on the event, visit fshc.org/wp2/conference/

FOURTH ANNUAL AGE-FRIENDLY SHARING SYMPOSIUM

By John McQuillan

Florida's 4th Annual Sharing Symposium, held in Miami on May 14th and 15th, was a great success, with 93 leaders from the national and state level discussing innovative ways to implement Age-Friendly and Dementia-Caring practices.

Speakers at the event included the CEO of N4A, Sandy Markwood, AARP Director of Livable Communities, Danille Arigoia, DOEA Secretary, Richard Prudom, and Florida's Lieutenant Governor, Jeanette Nuñez.

On the first day of the symposium, Lieutenant Governor Nuñez gave welcoming remarks and stated that Age-Friendly and Dementia-Caring communities are an area of focus for the Governor. Then, following a brief celebration of Florida becoming the fourth state in the country to receive the Age-Friendly designation, the group of leaders began discussions.

Aileen Boucle, Executive Director of the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization and Ben Porritte from Brightline highlighted Miami's initiatives aimed at fostering accessible and inclusive city transportation. One of the initiatives discussed was the Safe Routes to Age in Place pilot program, which used community informed decision making to improve walkability in Little Havana.

The afternoon continued with collaborative sessions designed to examine the successes and lessons in Miami's journey to becoming a leading Age-Friendly city.

A notable presentation shared practical approaches for cities and towns to provide more affordable housing for seniors. Also, Ken Reinhardt, AARP Livable Volunteer Leader, spoke to the audience about increasing civic engagement within a community and SCSEP State Director, Krysta Carter,

presented on Age-Friendly employers. The evening concluded with an insightful keynote speech from the CEO of N4A, Sandy Markwood.

Day two of the Symposium started with participants being assigned to small groups, each with a unique age-friendly policy topic. Topics included how to implement a Dementia Care and Care Initiative Task Force in a community; effective ways to develop an action plan and utilize survey tools; and unique strategies to craft an age-friendly narrative for a community.

Later in the day, participants were able to learn more about the state's ambitious Age-Friendly Public Health Systems. In 2018, 37 counties across Florida were selected to participate in a pilot funded by the John Harford and Trust for America's Health aimed at making local public health systems Age-Friendly.

Towards the middle of the event, USF professor, Dr. Hyer, along with AARP's Leslie Spencer and Danielle Arigoni, gave a salient presentation on disaster resilience (see image below). Then, DCCI Program Coordinator, Laura Copeland, shared a few compelling examples of DCCI Task Forces' impressive efforts within their communities. During the presentation, Gainesville's DCCI Taskforce Chairs, Johnnie Jones and Jana Unislawski, joined the stage and discussed how they are educating their city on dementia through various training programs (for more information about DCCI see page 6-7 of the NEWSLTR).

At the end of the symposium, Jeff Johnson, State Director of AARP Florida, Secretary Prudom, and Jeanne Curtin, Director of Livable Communities, spoke about Livable Florida and the exciting new partnerships and opportunities for the entire Age-Friendly network.

A GREAT SUCCESS



Sharing Symposium participants get ready to discuss ways to implement DCCI Task Forces in Florida's communities



Dr. Hyer gives her remarks on disaster resiliency



BRINGING THE LOST HOME

By the Alzheimer's Project

Paul Coley, (pictured above) founded Scent Evidence K9 in 2012 to help communities and law enforcement agencies improve their methods of locating missing persons and bring the lost home safe. As a former FBI Forensics Canine Specialist, Paul has seen the heartbreak of families that have experienced a loved one who has gone missing and set out to create more successful ways to find them using specially trained trailing bloodhounds and scent.

Paul developed The Scent Preservation Kit® that enables a person to collect and store their unique scent for up to 10 years. Having a scent kit prepared in advance allows responders to begin searching for a missing person immediately with an uncontaminated scent article resulting in faster and more accurate location results. Recently, a central Florida woman with Alzheimer's Disease was found in only 5 minutes after wandering away from her home using a Scent Preservation Kit® that she had prepared 2 years earlier when she was diagnosed.

Those with Alzheimer's disease and dementia are among the most at risk populations for wandering. Studies show that 60% or 3 in 5 will become lost or missing. To help Florida communities improve their capabilities to protect the 560,000 citizens at risk, Scent Evidence K9 partnered with Alzheimer's Project to pass the Bringing The Lost Home Pilot Project Bill in June 2019. The Pilot Project provides thousands of Scent Preservation Kits® to people in Seminole, Bay, and Sumter Counties living with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, and Autism.

The bill also provides Missing Person Response and Scent Discriminate K-9 training to area law enforcement teams. "The goal of the Pilot Project is to increase missing person awareness and create safer communities for those at risk of wandering. We are looking forward to working with Alzheimer's Project to achieve this goal and bring the lost home," stated Coley.

Paul is also a member of the Big Bend DCCI Task Force and Scent Evidence K9 is a statewide partner of DOEA.

FOUR FLORIDA COMMUNITIES ARE AWARDED AARP'S COMMUNITY CHALLENGE GRANT

Gainesville: City of Gainesville

Gainesville will host a month-long "Smart City Pop-up Living Lab" to engage residents in hands-on interactive exhibits that encourage thoughtful community dialogue on data, connected technologies, and quality of life. Physical exhibits will be made mobile when possible and will be offered in a digital format for web-based engagement.

Pensacola: Keep Pensacola Beautiful

New landscaping, shade trees, pollinator gardens and waste receptacles will be installed at a musical instrument garden, which will ultimately help increase the public's use of and engagement with the space.

St. Petersburg: Florida Dream Center, Inc.

To help reduce and address code violations, this project will engage residents through door-to-door outreach and make improvements to a number of homes in the community.

Tallahassee: Keep Tallahassee Beautiful

A new 860-foot linear park, with a bench swing, accessible water fountain and signage, will connect two existing neighborhood parks, as well as a 16-mile rail trail to the coast.

AARP Community Challenge



2019 Winning Grantees

AARP® Real Possibilities
Florida

THE CITY OF OCALA AND MARION COUNTY JOIN THE NETWORK

The Network of Age-Friendly Communities is currently at 29 enrolled communities in Florida, and 3 communities have an approved action plan! The AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities is a collection of communities that have committed to actively work together to make their town, city, or county livable for people of all ages. The network helps participating communities become great places by adopting such features as walkable streets, better housing, transportation options, access to key services, and opportunities for residents to participate in community activities. Visit AARP.org/AgeFriendly to view an update

FLORIDA'S AGE-FRIENDLY NETWORK

- FLORIDA:** Joined: 2019 | Population: 21.3M
- ALACHUA:** Joined: 2019 | Population: 266,944
- CORAL GABLES:** Joined: 2018 | Population: 50,815
- CUTLER BAY:** Joined: 2016 | Population: 44,321 [Action Plan](#)
- DUNEDIN:** Joined: 2018 | Population: 35,321
- FORT LAUDERDALE:** Joined: 2017 | Population: 176,013
- HALLANDALE BEACH:** Joined: 2016 | Population: 38,270
- HOLLYWOOD:** Joined: 2016 | Population: 140,768
- LAKELAND:** Joined: 2016 | Population: 102,507
- LONGWOOD:** Joined: 2016 | Population: 13,657
- MARION COUNTY:** Joined: 2019 | Population: 354,353
- MIAMI:** Joined: 2018 | Population: 432,622
- MIAMI-DADE COUNTY:** Joined: 2016 | Population: 2,600,861
- MIAMI LAKES:** Joined: 2018 | Population: 31,087
- MIAMI SHORES:** Joined: 2018 | Population: 10,649
- NEW PORT RICHEY:** Joined: 2018 | Population: 14,911
- OCALA:** Joined: 2019 | Population: 59,110
- ORLANDO:** Joined: 2019 | Population: 280,257
- PALMETTO BAY:** Joined: 2017 | Population: 24,000
- PEMBROKE PINES:** Joined: 2017 | Population: 154,750
- PINECREST:** Joined: 2016 | Population: 19,088
- PINELLAS COUNTY:** Joined: 2017 | Population: 921,000
- POMPANO BEACH:** Joined: 2018 | Population: 109,393
- SARASOTA COUNTY:** Joined: 2015 | Population: 390,429 [Survey](#) | [Action Plan](#)
- SATELLITE BEACH:** Joined: 2016 | Population: 10,418
- ST. PETERSBURG:** Joined: 2016 | Population: 53,700 [Survey](#)
- TALLAHASSEE:** Joined: 2015 | Population: 188,107 [Survey](#)
- WALTON COUNTY:** Joined: 2019 | Population: 68,376
- WILTON MANORS:** Joined: 2018 | Population: 12,682

CARFIT: FOR OLDER DRIVERS

CarFit is an educational program that offers older adults the opportunity to check how well their personal vehicles "fit" them. To find out more information and to promote safe mobility for all, visit car-fit.org. Find our Event Map at car-fit.org/carfit/EventMap.



Elder Update

The Elder Update is a bi-monthly news publication produced by the Department of Elder Affairs. It is distributed for free to more than 50,000 Floridians including seniors, caregivers, policymakers, and elder-care service providers. Click the "subscribe" button below to sign up.



DEMENTIA CARE AND CURE INITIATIVE



The Dementia Care and Cure Initiative (DCCI) currently has 10 Dementia-Caring communities throughout Florida, where Task Forces lead the charge to implement dementia-sensitive solutions for local residents.



NORTHWEST FLORIDA

Task Force members have been busy facilitating dementia sensitivity trainings in the area. Recently trained community entities include:

- Homestead Village Pensacola (Escambia County)
- Cantonment Senior Center (Escambia County)
- Milton United Methodist Church (Santa Rosa County)
- Chumuckla Community Center (Santa Rosa County)

BIG BEND

This Task Force is spreading dementia sensitivity education and awareness beyond Leon County, and has rebranded as the "Dementia Care and Cure Initiative of the Big Bend". They now have a Facebook page, which can be liked to keep up with what they're doing. Also of note, DCCI co-chair Vicky Rose of the Tallahassee Memorial Memory Disorder Clinic explained the vital role a healthy brain plays in older driver safety, and actionable steps to help keep our brains healthy through the natural aging process, as she guest starred on the national podcast "Beyond Driving with Dignity" with Matt Gurwell on the Whole Care Network. Community entities newly trained with dementia sensitivity education include:

- Smith Williams Service Center
- Agency for Health Care Administration
- 2-1-1 Big Bend
- Taylor County Senior Center

JACKSONVILLE

The Jacksonville Task Force has co-branded with Dementia Friendly America (DFA) and is looking to launch this co-brand at a community pop-up event in mid to late September in Duval County. This event will focus on caregivers, community education featuring caregiver support workshops, elder care legal matters, and end with a panel discussion with experts representing various community resources.

GREATER GAINESVILLE

A Training and Education Subcommittee is in the process of being formed by this Task Force, which will be utilized to facilitate trainings and participate in educational events throughout the Greater Gainesville area. This Task Force is staying true to its name, Greater Gainesville, and is setting up dementia sensitivity trainings with community partners in Marion and Lake Counties.

BREVARD

The newest DCCI Task Force has jumped in feet first and is impacting the community through dementia sensitivity trainings and participation in

community events. Education, information, and awareness have been provided to the following:

- Brain Health Education Class at Faith Viera Lutheran Church
- Wellness & Health Fair at Greater Faith Temple
- Guardianship Association Meeting
- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Senior Festival at the Melbourne Auditorium
- Aging Gracefully Seminar at the Catherine Road Central Library

ORLANDO

Several members from this Task Force attended and participated in an event at Orlando Health in June 2019, hosted by the Alzheimer's Association at Orlando Health, titled, "Dementia and Caregiving in the Current Landscape: Preparing for Increasing Public and Private Impact". Task Force member, retired judge Jose Rodriguez, moderated a panel discussion and one of the panelists was DOEA's very own, Secretary Richard Prudom. This Task Force is also planning a community launch of the dementia sensitivity training soon.

TAMPA

The Board of County Commissioners of Hillsborough County declared June 2019 as "Dementia Care and Cure Initiative Community Month" and urges all residents and visitors to advocate for increased care and research efforts for those who are living with dementia, and to show their support for the caregivers and family members of those living with the disease. This proclamation was presented to the community by Tampa DCCI Task Force member and County Commissioner, Sandra Murman, at the Quarterly Awards Ceremony for the Board of County Commissioners of Hillsborough County on June 27, 2019. Tampa DCCI Task Force members were present to receive this proclamation and are proud to get this initiative out into the community.

SARASOTA

The Sarasota Task Force (see picture below) now has a video version of the DCCI dementia sensitivity training available for use in the community, free of charge. This Task Force has been busy recruiting volunteers in the community to assist with the educational piece of DCCI and will be holding a train-the-trainer session soon. Recent trainings in the Sarasota area for DCCI have included:

- Sertoma Organization of Venice
- Volunteers and Students with Sarasota Memorial Hospital
- Parish Nurses



FORT MYERS

Task Force members presented the Cape Coral Police Department Chief, David Newlan, with their DCCI decal at a press conference in May 2019 (see picture below). Over 200 officers and personnel with the Cape Coral Police Department took part in the free dementia sensitivity training offered, and this department now has the decal displayed on the front of their building and on squad cars. Additional dementia sensitivity trainings as of late have been provided to the following community entities in Lee County:

- Zion Lutheran Church
- Fort Myers Fire Department (new staff)
- Southwest Florida Guardian Association



MIAMI

The Miami DCCI Task Force (see picture below) hosted guest speakers, Dr. Iveris Martinez and Dr. Elaine Acosta at the West Dade Regional Library on July 9, 2019 for a discussion open to the public on Alzheimer's disease and family caregiving. Dr. Martinez and Dr. Acosta presented the findings from their research study, "The Experience of Alzheimer's Disease for Family Caregivers in a Latino Community: Cultural Congruence and Disparities in Utilization of Support Services" and discussed potential next steps for improving access to and quality of services for Latino family caregivers in the Miami-Dade area.

