

## Successful Public Health Approaches in Dementia Caregiving: *Vermont*

A Virtual Roundtable Series

July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023



### Welcome from...

### Elma Johnson, MPH

#### Coordinator,

BOLD Public Health Center of Excellence on Dementia Caregiving (PHCOE-DC)

Center for Healthy Aging and Innovation (CHAI)

University of Minnesota



### Land acknowledgement

The University of Minnesota Twin Cities is located on traditional, ancestral, and contemporary lands of Indigenous people. We acknowledge with gratitude the Land itself and the People. We take to heart and commit through action to learn and honor the traditional cultural Dakota Values: Courage, Wisdom, Respect and Generosity.



## The BOLD Public Health Center of Excellence on Dementia Caregiving (PHCOE-DC)

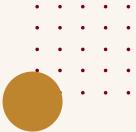
Designed to support state, tribal and local public health agencies nationwide in developing their dementia caregiving-focused programs and initiatives, by...



Improving access to evidence-based programs and best practices.



Facilitating connections and collaboration among public health agencies and a wide range of service organizations.





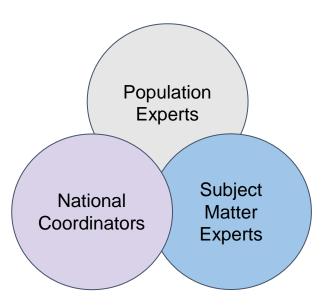
Providing technical assistance for identifying, selecting implementing effective public health interventions and strategies.



### **HBI** Collaborative

Multi-component approach to fully integrate dementia, cognitive health and caregiving into public health practice

#### HBI Collaborative





#### Find us online

- About the HBI Collaborative
- Participating Members
- Contact Information

hbicollaborative.org



### THE NEW HBI ROAD MAP IS **NOW AVAILABLE** ▶

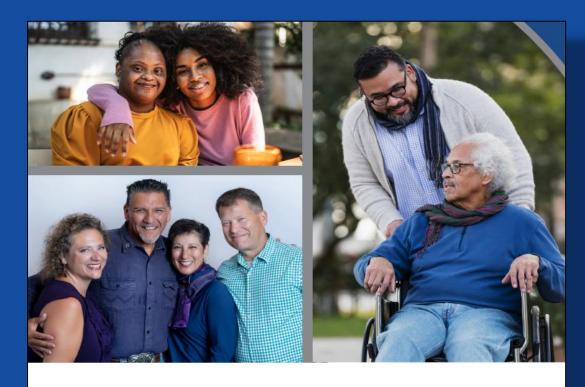
- Expert-developed guidebook for state and local public health practitioners
- Flexible menu of 24 readymade actions to advance health equity, increase community partnerships, and track progress
- Life course approach to maximize impact



alz.org/HBIRoadMap











State and Local Road Map for Public Health, 2023-2027

## THE **NEW** HBI ROAD MAP IS NOW AVAILABLE **>**





State and Local Road Map for Public Health, 2023–2027



Find the full text and additional materials at:

ALZ.ORG/HBIROA DMAP

**CDC.GOV/AGING** 

JOIN US FOR THE ROAD MAP LAUNCH WEBINAR ▶

# CHARTING THE COURSE TO BETTER BRAIN HEALTH

Wednesday, July 26 4:00p.m. ET



# Successful Public Health Approaches in Dementia Caregiving: A Virtual Roundtable Series

- **Bi-monthly**, roundtable series for **public health**.
- We will highlight the story of one state.
- Opportunity for **networking**, **peer-learning and idea generation**.
- A community of practice, where agencies can share their successes and

learnings, and get ideas for action.



### Reminders for the Presentation Session

- Please, MUTE yourself and turn your VIDEO ON while the panelists are presenting.
- Display your name and organization in Zoom.
- Submit your questions for the speakers into the Q&A feature. Questions will be addressed at the end of the presentation.
- After the presentation and during the Q&A time, please raise your hand if you wish to speak and only unmute if you are prompted.
- Use the CHAT to share comments, resources, links, and ideas.
- Feel free to use your reaction buttons!
- The recording, slides and resources will be shared after the event.
- Please complete the survey at the end of this event (linked in chat). We greatly appreciate your feedback!

### **Poll Question**

### In what capacity are you attending this event?

- BOLD Public Health Agency
- Non-BOLD Public Health Agency
- Community organization/service provider
- Person living with dementia
- Interested caregiver and/or community member
- Care/clinical professional





### Welcome our presenters!



Rhonda Williams, MPH

Program Director, Vermont's Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Program, Vermont Department of Health <a href="mailto:rhonda.williams@vermont.gov">rhonda.williams@vermont.gov</a>





Edwin DeMott, MS

Program Manager, Vermont's Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Program, Vermont Department of Health edwin.demott@vermont.gov



Lori McKenna, LICSW

Coordinator, CARERS and TEACH VT Program Manager, Dementia Family Caregiver Center, University of Vermont Medical Center lori.mckenna@uvmhealth.org



Jeanne Hutchins, MA

Manager, Dementia Family Caregiver Center, University of Vermont Medical Center jeanne.hutchins@med.uvm.edu

### Welcome our presenters!



Allegra Miller, M.Ed.
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University of Vermont Medical Center
allegramillervt@gmail.com



Audrey Winograd, JD, MSW
Program Coordinator, VT-BRIDGES,
Member, CARERS Dementia Caregiver Team
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Lucas Kovacevich, BS, MAT, MSW
Program Administrator, VT-BRIDGES
lucas.kovacevich@uvm.edu



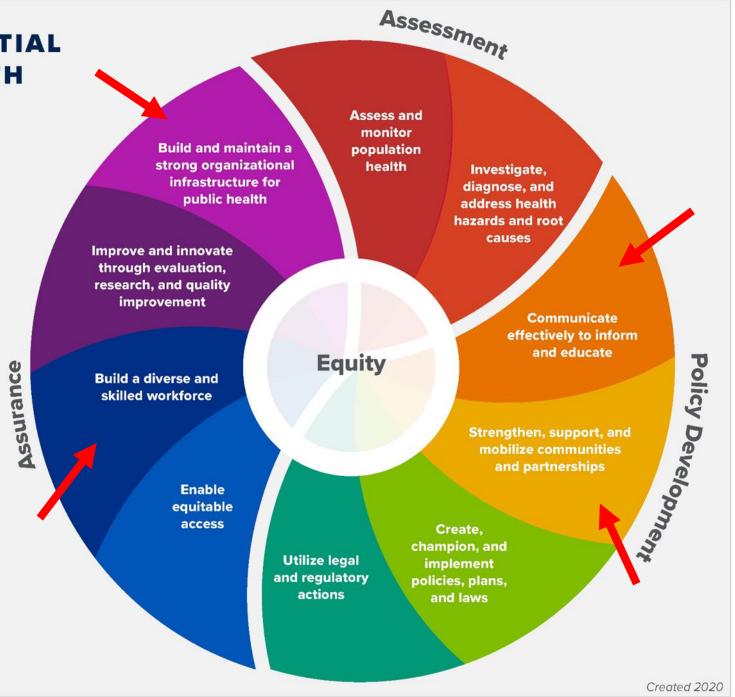
Janet Nunziata, MS

VT-BRIDGES and Grand Friends Program
janet.nunziata@med.uvm.edu

THE 10 ESSENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

To protect and promote the health of all people in all communities

The 10 Essential Public Health Services provide a framework for public health to protect and promote the health of all people in all communities. To achieve optimal health for all, the **Essential Public Health** Services actively promote policies, systems, and services that enable good health and seek to remove obstacles and systemic and structural barriers, such as poverty, racism, gender discrimination, and other forms of oppression, that have resulted in health inequities. Everyone should have a fair and just opportunity to achieve good health and well-being.



## Building Successful Public Health Approaches in Dementia Caregiving in Vermont

Rhonda Williams & Ed DeMott Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Program



### **BOLD** at Vermont Department of Health

- CORE Capacity –
   2020-2023
- Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Program

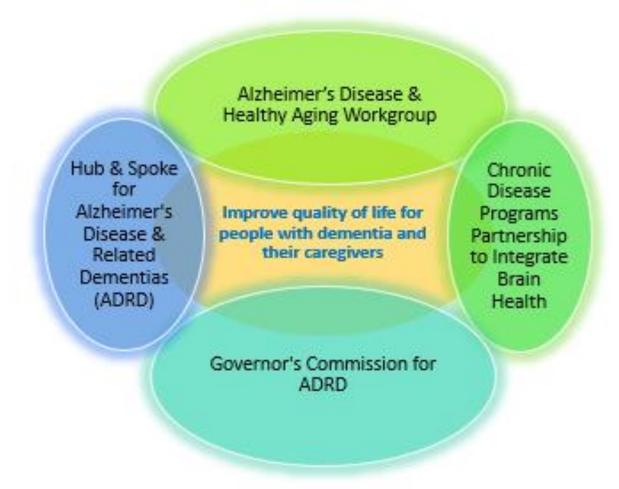


## Leading the Public Health Approach to ADRD

- Strengthen partnerships and policies
- Engage and educate the public
- Build a diverse, skilled workforce
- Measure, evaluate and utilize data



### **Alzheimer's Disease & Healthy Aging Coalition**



# History: Action Plan on Alzheimer's and Healthy Aging

- Limited scope
- Focus on:
  - Reframing aging
  - Public awareness on some risk factors for dementia
  - Recognition of Alzheimer's & Brain Health Awareness Month (June) and Alzheimer's Disease Awareness and Family Caregiver Awareness Month (November)
  - Cultivate integration opportunities between Governor's Commission, DAIL, VDH and other key partners – on policies & training to support care partners.
  - PHCOE prompted more attention and focus on caregiving

# Vermont Action Plan for Alzheimer's Disease, Related Dementias and Healthy Aging

- An important deliverable of the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act cooperative agreement.
- Based upon the Healthy Brain Initiative Road map and other national efforts
  - The National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA)
  - RAISE (Recognize, Assist, Include, Support & Engage)



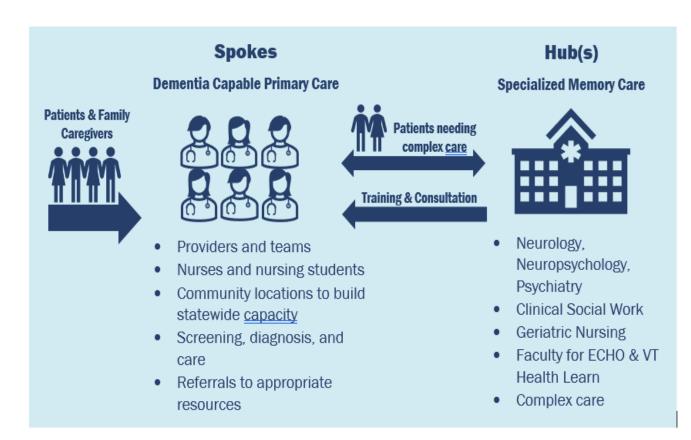
2022 –2025 Vermont Action Plan for Alzheimer's Disease, Related Dementias & Healthy Aging

### Vermont Action Plan for Alzheimer's Disease, Related Dementias and Healthy Aging

### **Action Plan Goals**

- Improve healthcare quality to achieve greater health equity for Vermonters with dementia and their families with care partner as part of the medical team
- Support all Vermonters with dementia, their families and dementia caregivers
- **8** Enhance public awareness and engagement with **caregiver component**
- Improve data to track and share progress on caregiver health and well-being
- Accelerate action to promote healthy aging and reduce risk factors for dementias, in particular, among caregivers

### Hub & Spoke for ADRD



- Project ECHO Dementia Diagnosis, Care, Management
- VT Health Learn
- TCARE assessment conducted by AAAs
- UCLA Dementia Care Model
- Dementia Friendly Communities

### UCLA – VTADC Vermont Alzheimer's & Dementia Care Program

- Dementia Specialist hired part time
- Implementation funding to support FT
- Dementia Care Assistant Aug/Sept
- Training for both positions scheduled for Fall
- Reimbursement self-sustaining
- Replicable in other regions/health systems





### Upcoming Training Initiatives

- Dementia certification for Community Health Workers
- Promote Alz Assoc. training for first responders
- Department of Mental Health
- Medical Reserve Corps to deliver education and raise public awareness of ADRD
- Dementia Friendly Communities training to Office of Local Health staff







### HBI Case Study: VERMONT

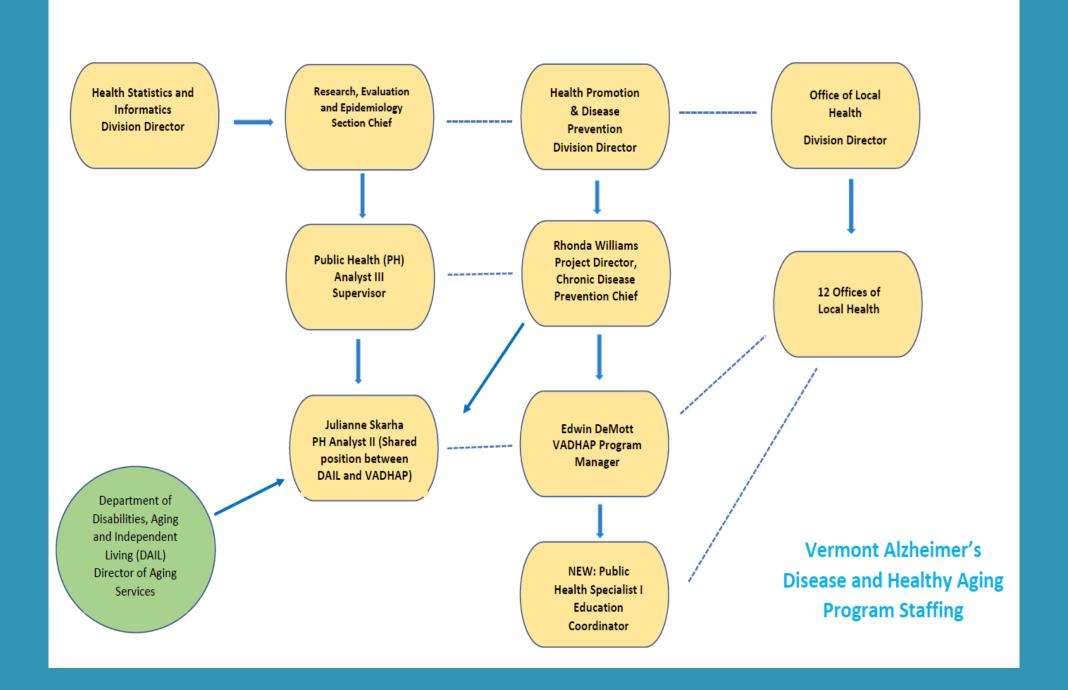
- Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month 2022 – educational series in coordination with the Alzheimer's Association VT Chapter.
  - the public,
  - the human services workforce,
  - community-based organizations, and
  - the chronic disease division at the health department









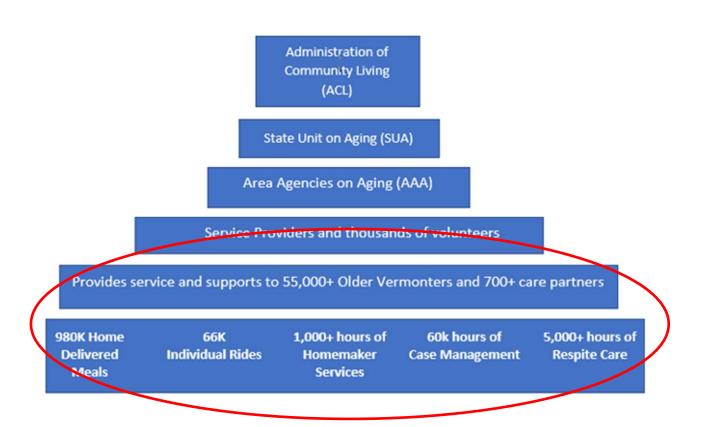


## New Master Plan on Aging strengthens caregiver supports

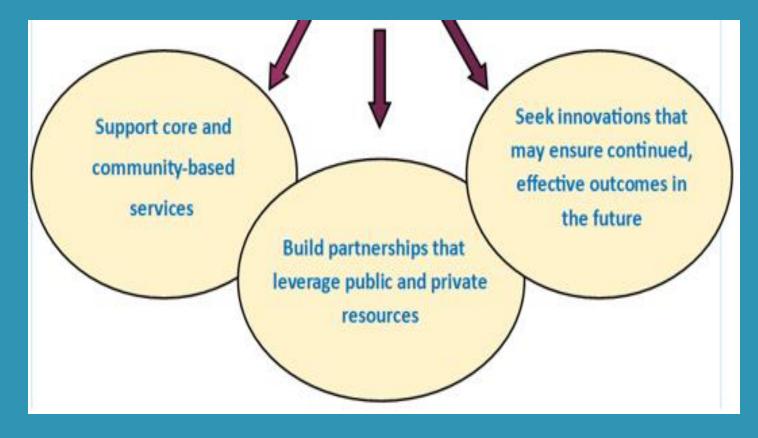
- Act 156, the Older Vermonters Act, passed the Vermont legislature in September 2020 and was signed by the Governor in October 2020.
- Creates a set of principles for a comprehensive and coordinated system of services, supports and protections for older Vermonters.
- Focus on optimal wellness, financial security, autonomy to benefit VT caregivers and those with a dementia diagnosis.



### Services & Support Pyramid: State of Vermont







### Care Partner Services

- Clinical Counseling
- Respite
- Training
- Case Management
- Access Assistance
- Supplemental Services



### Evidence-Based Programming:

- TCARE
- HomeMeds
- Tai Chi
- Trualta
- PEARLS
- CARERS
- TEACH



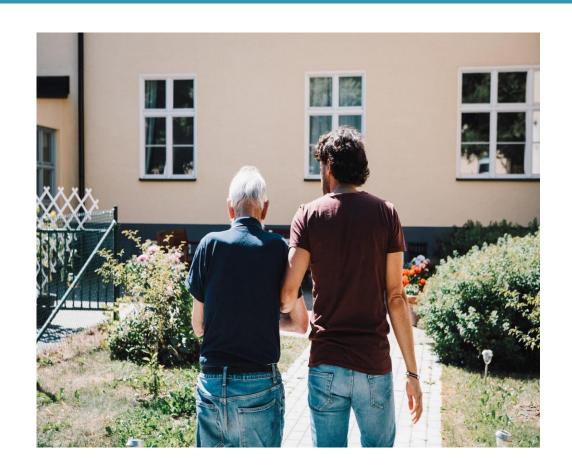
### Question for Audience:

What challenges have you faced in building supports and services that benefit dementia family caregivers?

## Coming Soon: Lived Experience Data Brief - CAREGIVING

"Caregiving takes up so much space emotionally. It pushes away the grief we feel as we watch a loved one fade away." – Louise, caregiver

Qualitative and quantitative data



### Coming Soon: My Healthy VT

- Statewide Tai Chi for Arthritis & Fall Prevention
- Complement to the High Blood Pressure and Diabetes Self-Management workshops
- Benefit to caregivers, but are time intensive



# Brain Health and Dementia web pages: Support for Family Caregivers





#### **Support for Dementia Family Caregivers**

#### In This Section:

Healthy Body, Healthy Brain | Living with Dementia | Resources for Health Care Professionals | Support for Dementia Family Caregivers



If you or someone close to you is impacted by Alzheimer's or a related dementia, you are not alone. There are more than 13,000 Vermonters aged 65 and older who have diagnosed Alzheimer's disease—the most common cause of dementia—and another 30,000 Vermonters who care for them.

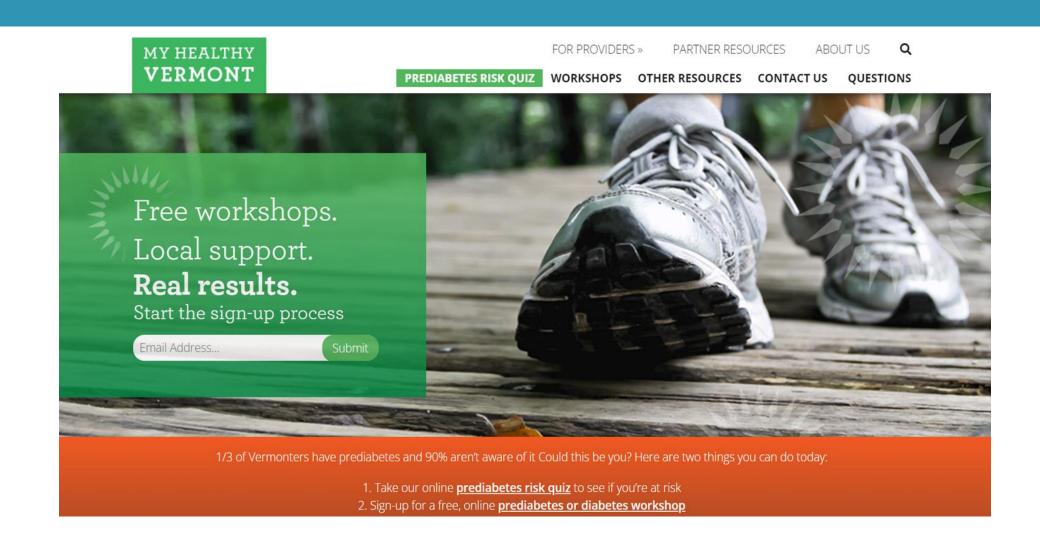
#### **Impact on Caregivers & Families**

Caring for someone with dementia is a meaningful and important role — but it is also highly demanding and has significant impacts. Caregivers of someone with dementia often feel isolated, stressed, exhausted and financially burdened.

Among caregivers for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias:

 Caregivers are more likely to experience anxiety, depression, and lower quality of life than caregivers of people with other conditions.

### My Healthy VT: For Caregivers, too



# Dementia Friendly Vermont will benefit everyone- especially dementia caregivers



# New Data Pages: Alzheimer's and Related Dementias

#### Alzheimer's and Related Dementias Surveillance in Vermont

Data Pages
Division of Health Statistics & Informatics
Published March 2023





# Question for Audience:

What are some of the most compelling caregiving data points that you are using in your jurisdiction?

# Rhonda Williams, Program Director Rhonda. Williams@vermont.gov

Ed DeMott, Program Manager Edwin.DeMott@vermont.gov

Thank you!



# University of Vermont Medical Center Dementia Family Caregiver Center Overview

Lori P. McKenna, LICSW



# WHAT: Program Description

# The Establishment of the UVMMC Dementia Family Caregiver Center

- Decrease ED visits, delay residential care by supporting caregivers and persons with dementia in their own homes
- Innovative programming for caregivers for persons with Alzheimer's and related dementias
- Recognizes the necessity for change to best support family caregivers for persons with dementia.



# HOW: Four Primary Objectives

#### 1. Dementia Care Pathway/ Short Term Resource and Referral:

 Family consultations, resource identification, long term planning, caregiver counseling (across UVMHN).

#### HOW:

# 2. Expand Evidence Based Therapeutic Caregiver Groups Statewide/Across Network:

The Reitman Center/UVMMC CARERS and TEACH groups.

Est. 2016 in VT

- Addresses caregiver burden, increases problem solving skills using CBT and Patient Simulation
- Certified Master Trainers provide annual training/mentoring of new facilitators to expand CARERS groups across network.

Est. 2021

#### **HOW:**

#### 3. Peer to Peer Mentoring Program:

 Volunteer model of care matching experienced dementia caregivers with newer dementia caregivers. Includes training and coaching for mentors. 6-month commitment. Pilot initiated April 2023.

#### **HOW:**

#### 4. Workforce Development:

- The VT BRIDGES Program (Vermont Broadening Resources in Developing Gerontological Education and Social Work).
- A partnership between UVMMC Dementia Family Caregiver Center, UVM Center on Aging and UVM Department of Social Work to recruit, educate and retain 4<sup>th</sup> year BSW and MSW students in the field of aging.
- Includes rotating internship placements, support and supervision, specialized coursework and stipends. Cohort of 3 to begin September 2023.

#### **PROGRAM GOALS:**

- Decrease ED visits and delay residential placements for persons with dementia (research findings by scholars at Reitman Centre, Mt. Sinai Toronto, Canada)
- Continue to serve 100 UVMHN caregivers of persons with dementia living at home, annually; increasing exponentially with program expansion
- Continue to serve as a gateway for existing services for family caregivers and primary care offices
- Expand Volunteer Peer to Peer Mentor Program to support family caregivers across network
- Workforce development: educate 3 MSW interns for specialized work with older persons in VT annually.

## Peer to Peer Mentoring Program Pilot

Jeanne Hutchins, MA, Allegra Miller, M.Ed.



# How can we support caregivers to be responsive with the ever-changing and unpredictable symptoms in the progression of dementia?

#### How can we help them learn, adapt, and thrive?

**Background:** 2023 Vermont Alzheimer's Association Statistics:

- # of people 65+ with ADRD 13,000
- # of unpaid family caregivers 19,000
- total hours of unpaid care 28,000,000
- total value of unpaid care \$590,000,000

Caregivers queried indicated needing access to a contact person for questions, help and support

#### The Family Caregiver:

- Needs specific and ongoing training, communication and support
- Is an essential piece of the medical care team

Goal: To provide another avenue of support to the family caregiver of someone living with AD/ADRD.

#### Unique Needs of the Family Caregiver

The family caregiver balances many plates including needs of their own, such as:

- Managing grief
- Personal stress
- Potential health issues
- Social isolation
- Overall emotional turmoil



"There are only four kinds of people in this world: those who have been caregivers, those who are currently caregivers, those who will be caregivers and those who will need caregivers. Caregiving is universal."

- Rosalynn Carter, Former First Lady of the United States

Caregiving is critical to our families and communities

#### How Can We Best Support the Family Caregiver?

#### The Family Caregiver:

- Is a critical member of the medical care team
- Ensures that their family member is safe, cared for and following medical directions
- Makes personal decisions to provide this level of care for their family member such as employment, social connections, everyday changes in way of life
- Is highly susceptible to stress, fatigue, burnout and physical symptoms attributed to caregiving
- May be in an ongoing state of grief

Will a structured and coordinated volunteer mentor program provide needed support, without crossing the critical lines of therapy, to the family caregiver?

Goals of the mentor are to provide a sounding board, suggest resources, help problem solve, be an active listener, and share a common understanding.

## What Prompted our Thinking?



#### **The Mentor Offers**



### Important Resources From the Field

Jori Fleisher, MD MSCE FAAN, Associate Professor of Neurological Sciences at Rush University Medical Center, whose research in novel models of care and caregiver support, including home visits and peer mentoring among those with Parkinson's Disease and Lewy Body Dementia, has been supported by the NINDS, NIA, Emory Roybal Center for Dementia Caregiving Mastery, Parkinson's Foundation, CurePSP, Lewy Body Dementia Association, Davis Phinney Foundation, and philanthropic generosity.

Awaiting confirmation about the **PERSEVERE Lewy Body Dementia Peer Mentoring Randomized Clinical Trial** from the NIH.

Email: jori\_fleisher@rush.edu

### Volunteer Peer to Peer Mentor Program Pilot

#### Purpose:

To share experiences, knowledge and provide social/emotional support and relevant resources with a new family caregiver of a family member with dementia.

#### **Expectations:**

#### **Qualifications**

- Mentor has been through or is currently an experienced caregiver with a family member who has dementia; attends mentor training
- Mentee recent caregiver of a family member who is diagnosed with dementia
- Pre-assessment for purposes of matching

#### Meetings

- Meet virtually or in person at least once per week for 6 months; (to be mutually determined)
- Mentor connect with support coach monthly or as needed

## **Topics Covered in Mentor Training**

- Confidentiality
- Dementia progression education
- Building a relationship with your mentee
- Communication tips
- Virtual meeting guidelines
- Caregiver grief, loss, and stress
- Caregiver burnout and fatigue
- Tips for self-care for both mentor and mentee
- Possible discussion topics
- Journaling
- Resources

## What We Have Learned and Next Steps



"BEARING WITNESS IS ENOUGH"



A COACH IS NOT A CONDUIT TO THE NEUROLOGIST



"HOW WILL MY WORK AS A MENTOR CHANGE BOTH OF US?"



DISCUSS SELF-CARE FOR MENTOR



FIRST COACHING SESSION SOONER THAN ONE MONTH



REVIEW AND ASSESSMENTS IS CRITICAL

# The University of Vermont Medical Center/Reitman Centre CARERS and TEACH Programs

Lori P. McKenna, LICSW



#### **Credits**

- CARERS (Coaching, Advocacy, Respite, Education, Relationship and Simulation) a therapeutic program for dementia family caregivers, developed by Dr. Joel Sadavoy and the clinical research team at the Reitman Centre, Sinai health, Toronto
- **TEACH** (Training, Education, and Assistance for Caregiving at Home) a therapeutic program for dementia family caregivers developed by Dr. Virginia Wesson and the clinical team at Reitman Center, Sinai Health, Toronto
- CARERS/TEACH Master Training Curriculum provided by the Reitman Centre led by team educator, Gita Lakhanpal, OT Registered (Ontario), Registered Psychotherapist, MES

# To learn more about how to bring these programs to your community, contact:

Lori P. McKenna, LICSW at 802-847-2466 or Lori.McKenna@uvmhealth.org or Jeanne Hutchins, MA at 802-363-9599 or Jeanne.Hutchins@med.uvm.edu

#### What are Therapeutic Caregiver Groups?

Evidence based therapy groups developed through research trials at The Reitman Centre in Toronto Ontario.

- TEACH Group: for family caregivers who are new to caregiving for someone with dementia
- CARERS Program: Skills based group therapy for caregivers with experience who have significant challenges.

#### **Expand Caregiver Therapeutic Groups Statewide:**

#### CARERS/TEACH:

- Caregiver therapeutic groups to increase understanding of behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia and address caregiver burden, utilizing cognitive behavioral therapy and patient simulation.
- Currently offering yearly trainings with goal of having a certified CARERS facilitator in each area of the state.
- Model includes ongoing mentoring for facilitators.

#### Clinical Goals – CARERS/TEACH

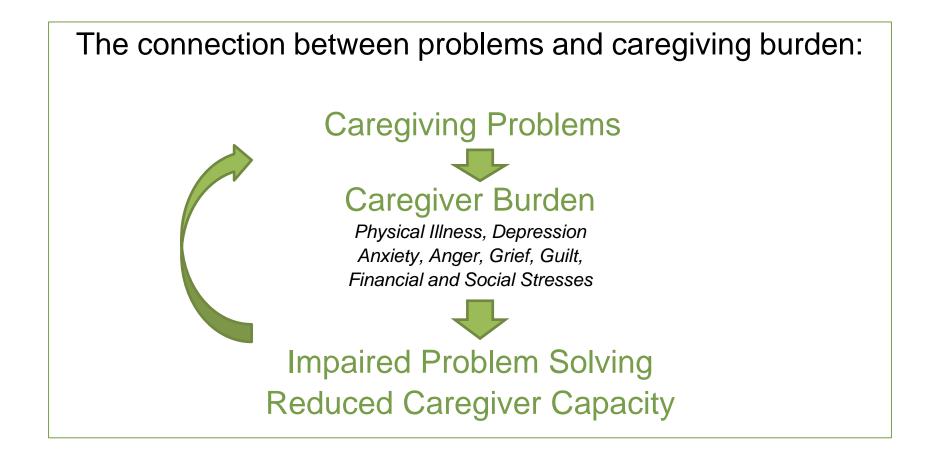
- Enhance practical skills
- Improve coping & problem solving
- Improve emotional regulation
- Enhance sense of mastery & self-efficacy
- Reduce depression & anxiety
- Improve social interaction & support

#### What is TEACH?

# <u>Training, Education, and Assistance</u> for <u>Caregiving at Home</u>

- A psychotherapeutic group
- Family caregivers new to dementia caregiving
- Sessions focus on skills training
- Weekly themes vary

## Rational for using Problem Solving Therapy (PST)



# **Eight Steps of Problem-Solving Therapy (PST)**

- 1. Develop problem list
- 2. Clarify problem
- 3. Establish goal
- 4. Brainstorm solution
- 5. Discuss pros and cons
- 6. Choose solution
- 7. Develop plan
- 8. Evaluate outcome

# **Example of PST**

One caregiver's story of problem-solving therapy



#### Structure of the CARERS Program

#### Coaching, Advocacy, Respite, Education, Relationship, Simulation

- 8 weekly group sessions:
  - Therapy group for those caring for a person with advanced disease
  - Separate groups for spouses/partners & adult children
- 4 major elements:
  - Dementia education
  - Problem Solving Therapy-CBT
  - Simulation
  - Monthly follow up

#### What is Simulation?

- Live face-to-face encounter between a caregiver and simulated patient (SP)
- Provides experiential learning
- Used to re-enact a situation of interpersonal challenge
- Can identify feelings, patterns of behavior, and knowledge gaps

# Vermont Broadening Resources in Developing Gerontological Education and Social Work

Audrey Winograd, JD, MSW, Lucas Kovacevich, BS, MAT, MSW



#### **Workforce Development**

# VT-BRIDGES: Vermont Broadening Resources in Developing Gerontological Education and Social Work

 A pilot project developed in collaboration with University of Vermont Medical Center's Dementia Family Caregiver Center, University of Vermont's Center on Aging and the University of Vermont's Social Work Department

#### **Mission**

- To enhance workforce development within the field of gerontological social work
- As Vermont's population ages, there is a need for a greater number of trained social workers to support their unique challenges and to acknowledge their vital role within the wider community.

#### **Method:**

How we researched and developed VT-BRIDGES pilot project

#### Taking a Closer Look at VT-BRIDGES

- Specialized coursework: The program will support development of courses within the social work department focused on the unique challenges of aging
- Rotational site placements: Within an academic year, students will have multiple site placements in order to expose them to a variety of settings and practice modalities
- Cohort model: Students will be engaged in their learning and exploration as a unique cohort
- Interdisciplinary approach: Students will work with community agencies, clinicians, administrators, and policy experts to bring attention to the vital role social workers play in these settings and to actualize the necessary skills to be an effective part of the team.

#### What's Next?

- First cohort will begin fall of 2023
- Modest stipend will be provided
- Two first year MSWs with rotating placements; one advanced standing student with simultaneous placements (clinical/macro)
- Group orientation prior to beginning of fall semester
- Monthly meetings with coordinator to discuss experiences
- Cohort will collaborate on a project addressing a need within the field of aging
- When available, students will be asked to enroll in courses specific and relevant to gerontological social work

#### **Questions**

 How do you reach out and possibly provide support to underrepresented populations?

What feedback do you have for this internship model?

# University of Vermont Center on Aging

Janet Nunziata, MS



# The Center on Aging at the University of Vermont

 The Center is a key partner in the VT-BRIDGES Social Worker Workforce Development Program

 We also help students seeking internships with community organizations -Alzheimer's Association

## The Center on Aging

#### **Our Annual Gerontology Conference Provides:**

- Education and support for family caregivers of those living with dementia
- Education and training for professionals, including:
  - Social Workers, Registered Nurses, Nursing Home Administrators, Mental Health Clinicians
- Statewide audience with 100 to 200 participants

## **Age-Friendly University Initiative**

#### **The Grand Friends Program**

- Matches students in Social Work and Aging-related classes with older adult volunteers
- Pairs meet 4 to 5 times (in person, via zoom, or by phone)
- Students report increased interest in working with older adults, and in understanding issues impacting older adults

#### What Are You Curious About?

- Questions about therapeutic groups?
- Peer to Peer Mentoring Program?
- VT-BRIDGES Workforce Development?
- Partnerships with other affiliations?
- Other?

**Thank You!** 

# For future questions, training information or consultation please contact:

#### The UVMMC Dementia Family Caregiver Center

- Lori P. McKenna, LICSW:
   Lori.McKenna@uvmhealth.org (802) 847-2466
   or
- Jeanne Hutchins, MA:
   Jeanne.Hutchins@med.uvm.ed (802) 363-9599

### Q&A

Please, submit your questions in the Q&A Zoom feature!



#### Connect with us!

Visit us online at https://bolddementiacaregiving.org to....

- Find today's slides and recording.
- ✓ Request Technical Assistance to support your public health work in dementia caregiving.
- ✓ Access resources and materials.
- ✓ Stay up to date with PHCOE-DC activities.







@PHCOE\_DO



## Thank you for joining us today!

Please, take a moment to complete our evaluation form at the end of this presentation.

