Empowerment in Action: Living with Dementia and Leading Inclusive Partnerships

Alzheimer’s Disease International Conference -

July 28, 2018

Robert Savage - Person living with dementia and Founder, Dementia Peer Coalition
Stephani Shivers - COO of Community Services, LiveWell
Dementia Peer Coalition (DPC)

- **FOUNDING PRINCIPLES**
  - Empowerment, Equality, Inclusion, Access, Resilience, Meaning, Purpose

- **FOCUS AREAS**
  - Peer support, Advocacy, Education & Research, and Volunteerism

www.dementiapeercoalition.org

An independent voice run by and for people living with dementia.

The Dementia Peer Coalition

A group of resilient people living with the changes attributed to various forms of dementia who are joining together into a national and local peer coalition. The DPC creates opportunities for peers living with dementia to support and empower one another in four areas:

- Peer Support
- Advocacy
- Community Education, and
- Volunteerism

1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each Month
1st Wed: Elmwood Community Center
1106 New Britain Ave
West Hartford, CT
3rd Wed: ZOOM Meeting

FOR INFORMATION CALL:
860-628-9000
https://dementiapeercoalition.wordpress.com
Peer Support Group - format

- Based on Alcoholics Anonymous format
- 2 meetings per month - 1 in person, 1 Zoom Video Conference
- In Person Meeting Format
  - Review Meeting format (rotate peer leader)
  - 5 minutes of sharing issues people are facing
  - Choose 1-2 issues for additional exploration
- Zoom Meeting Format
  - Review Meeting format (rotate peer leader)
  - 1-2 themes based on previous meetings
  - Each meeting participant is invited to share (up to 5 minutes) their experiences and perspectives on the topic
Peer Support Group - LiveWell’s staff role

- LiveWell staff role - technical support
  - Manage meeting calendar and email invitations
  - Direct inquiries to group members
  - Zoom account
- LiveWell staff role - meetings
  - Timekeeper
  - Process Coach - supports peer leader to ensure all invited to share
  - Keeps notes as directed for future discussions, follow up actions
Public Awareness and Education Events

Living with Alzheimer’s

Presented by:
Geri and Jim Taylor
Alzheimer’s Activists and Nationally Noted Speakers

Thursday, November 16th
7:00 PM

Stoiba Center
Alzheimer’s Resource Center
1495 South Main Street
Plantsville, CT 06064

Admission is free.
Please register by calling:
(860) 628-9000

Geri Taylor, diagnosed five years ago with Alzheimer’s, and her husband Jim share their moving, positive story of living with the disease and a full, rewarding life. The Taylors’ story was featured titled in the New York Times (6/7/16) Fraying at the Edges. Geri’s career as a health professional provides unique insights into living fully with dignity and determination.
To whom I may concern®

Amazing things happen when people living with dementia share their stories.

08.30.17
6:30PM (doors open at 6:00pm)

TO WHOM I MAY CONCERN®
Thank you for joining us for this reader’s theater performance created and performed by people living with dementia. To Whom I May Concern® challenges beliefs about dementia and invites us to join a movement to build a more dementia friendly Connecticut.

HILL-STEAD MUSEUM
Alzheimer’s Resource Center
An interactive theater program designed to give voice to people in the early stages of dementia by creating their own script of stories, expressing their fear, anger, frustration, hope and determination – often with humor and love. Group members then share their stories and experiences with audiences made up of family members, peers, friends, care partners, and professionals.

www.towhomimayconcern.org
www.dementiafriendsct.org
LiveWell LeaderShift Program

- Year long leadership development program for aging and dementia service professionals
- Interactive experiential learning, self-reflection and an immersion learning experience
- Program participants are paired with a learning mentor/partner living with dementia
LiveWell LeaderShift Program

- Focus is to not just shift programs, language and care practices - rather shift leadership practices to recognize people living with dementia as leaders, mentors and guides.

- Program culminates with the identification of a gap/problem area and an action learning project to transform that area.
Eugene Washington Engagement Award

“Empowering Partners: Engaging Individuals with Dementia and Care Partners in Person Centered Outcomes Research”

- 2 year project proposal to co-create and implement a training program for people living with dementia and their care partners to prepare them to be partners in the research process
- Project co-designed by people living with dementia and will be co-implemented
Contact Us

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- Stephani Shivers, Chief Operating Officer - Community Services, LiveWell. sshivers@livewell.org