

The Brenda Strafford Foundation 'Dementia Friendly Communities'

Final Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Dementia Friendly Communities project has been launched in the S.W Calgary Westhills communities of Signal Hill, Strathcona, Christie Park and Aspen; and in the town of Okotoks. The initial project will run for a period of two and a half years (November, 2016 – October, 2019), with a long range goal, after the completion of this demonstration project, to become sustainable and grow province-wide.

The main goals of a Dementia Friendly Community are:

- To build community capacity to support individuals to age-in-place and remain in the community for as long as possible
- To raise awareness of dementia with the aim to reduce stigma associated with dementia.

The project goals include the creation of a toolkit designed to enable sustainability of the Dementia Friendly Community beyond the project's scope and allow for scale and spread within Alberta.

OBJECTIVES & IMPLEMENTATION

Objectives: The main objectives of a Dementia Friendly Community are:

- To build community capacity to support individuals to age-in-place and remain in the community for as long as possible
- To raise awareness of dementia with the aim to reduce stigma associated with dementia.
- The project goals include the creation of a toolkit designed to enable sustainability of the Dementia Friendly Community beyond the project's scope and allow for scale and spread within Alberta.
- Process/Approach: The process involves community mobilization through engaging with and collaborating with key stakeholders in the community. Gaps were identified from feedback from the community, and a work plan reflecting specific areas of focus was created including areas such as public awareness, social isolation, safety and education.
- Environment: The Dementia Friendly Communities project has been launched in the S.W Calgary Westhills communities of Signal Hill, Strathcona, Christie Park and Aspen; and in the town of Okotoks. These communities were chosen due to the proximity to two of BSF's continuing care facilities, Wentworth Manor and Tudor Manor. In addition to location, these two communities are very different from each other – one is urban, while the other is semi-rural. It is expected there will be commonalities but also some differences between these two communities during the project.
- Resources: Funding support for this project was provided by Alberta Health Services, Alberta Innovates, Alberta Seniors and Housing and The Brenda Strafford Foundation. Additionally, two dementia friendly coordinators were assigned to the project, one working in the Calgary Westhills area and the other in the Okotoks area.

IMPACT FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

Key successes to date include:

- Creation of dementia friendly business education Creation of dementia friendly audit checklist
- Incorporation of dementia friendly communities education into school curriculum
- Dementia friendly business education to service providers (i.e. banks, pharmacy, church, schools, coffee shops etc.)
- Dementia friendly training to first responders
- The introduction of library speaker series in both pilot communities Public awareness events
- Community Outreach Presentations Dementia Awareness Walks/Runs Memory Cafes
- Recruitment of Dementia Friends Completion of community mapping Community visits and interaction
- Creation of Partnerships and identification of key community stakeholders

Return to Dementia Friendly Communities and click on “[Evaluation](#)” for evaluation results in the “[Proof of Concept Report](#)” under Appendixes A & B

Contact seniorshealth.scn@ahs.ca for a copy of the Dementia Friendly Communities Final Report.