

Dementia-Friendly Transportation Project (DFTP)

Midterm Update

The Dementia Friendly Transportation Project (DFTP) provides dementia-centered training to the volunteers, staff, and caregivers of a this non-profit organization that offers seniors assisted transportation. This initiative aims to provide a safe and comfortable means for individuals experiencing dementia to access community-based programs and services that support health and socialization.

Midterm Milestones:

- Identified eligible project participants and accepted them into the program. Provided information and advertising material to local social service agencies to encourage appropriate referrals throughout the project.
- Provided dementia awareness, mental health first aid, and elder abuse recognition training to a proportion of target individuals.
 - Administered and analyzed pre-training and post-training evaluations, revealing generally positive feedback and an emphasis on role-playing forms of learning.
 - Identified additional individuals to receive future training and continued to schedule sessions on an ongoing basis.
- Provided over 1000 rides to older adults experiencing dementia using trained volunteer drivers. Preliminary analysis of feedback collected from participants and caregivers revealed participants typically used the service to attend day programs, medical appointments, recreational outings, and other wellness-enhancing programs and services.
 - Temporarily reduced service to exclusively provide transportation to critical medical appointments due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Reinstated full service. Provided volunteers with personal protective equipment and trained them in COVID-19 protocols to ensure safe rides.
- Submitted an abstract for the 2022 *Walk With Me* Conference in Calgary. If accepted, project plan and outcomes will be shared publicly as part of a group panel discussing dementia innovations. The goal will be to help other organizations implement similar dementia initiatives successfully.



- Continued to collect statistics and feedback for end-of-project consolidation and evaluation.

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