

Department of  
**ELDER AFFAIRS**  
STATE OF FLORIDA



# NEWSLTR

A PUBLICATION OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ELDER AFFAIRS

## PICTURED BELOW

DOEA's Tracey Aittama (third from left) and AARP's Leslie Spencer (fourth from right) at a ceremony celebrating Walton County's designation as an Age-Friendly Community.

## State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)

Florida is the only state in the nation to have a SHIP priority area solely dedicated to Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias. Read more on page 5.



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## THE SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM AND LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

By Krysta Carter,  
SCSEP State Director

The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) plays a vital role in communities throughout Florida.

Often, public and non-profit organizations are funded through Federal or State grants, which means there is no extra room in the budget to create new positions for paid staff.

Partnerships with these organizations provide hands-on employment training for SCSEP participants and additional resources for the organization to carry out the vital work being done without additional cost to them.

What kind of an economic impact do SCSEP participants have in Florida?

Between July 1, 2018, and June 30, 2019, 537

Department of Elder Affairs SCSEP participants provided more than 320,000 hours in community service; 60,000 of those hours were direct service to seniors.

Conservatively, at Florida's minimum wage, that's nearly \$3 million dollars in resource savings.

If you or someone you know is interested in entering the workforce, is unemployed, is age 55 or



older with low employment prospects, SCSEP might be right for you.

For more information contact the Elder Helpline at: 800-963-5337 or visit us at [elderaffairs.state.fl.us/doea/scsep.php](http://elderaffairs.state.fl.us/doea/scsep.php).

## LEADING AGE FLORIDA ANNUAL CONVENTION

On July 24, Secretary Prudom traveled to Orlando to speak to attendees of the Leading Age Florida 56th Annual Convention and Exposition about promoting the health and well-being of an increasingly diverse and growing aging population, as well as making existing structures more age friendly. Meeting attendees included leaders and employees

from the state's premier elder care organizations that house more than 70,000 of Florida's elder population. Secretary Prudom highlighted DOEA's efforts to make Florida livable for all regardless of age or ability and discussed his work with Governor DeSantis to improve the lives of Floridians affected by dementia.



Secretary Prudom speaking to attendees of the Leading Age Florida Convention and Exposition

**LeadingAge®**  
Florida



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### October 25-Nov 1

DOT is holding its second annual statewide mobility week. For more information on the event click [here](#)

### December 12-13

The Florida Civic Advance Summit will be held in Seminole, Florida. For more information on the event click [here](#)



# SARASOTA MEMORIAL Earns Age-Friendly Recognition

By Sarasota Memorial Staff

Sarasota Memorial Hospital recently received national recognition as an "Age-Friendly Health System," joining more than 100 hospitals in the U.S. that are implementing best practices to enhance care for older adults.

"Age-Friendly Health Systems" is an initiative led by The John Hartford Foundation and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, in partnership with the American Hospital Association and the Catholic Health Association of the United States. It's a movement to help hospitals and other care settings deliver safe, reliable, high-quality care based on what matters most to older adults as individuals. SMH is the only hospital in the region, and one of a handful in Florida, to have earned Age-Friendly status.

Health systems participating in the initiative are testing and putting into place the following set of evidence-based interventions — known as the "4Ms" — which have proven to be essential in providing better care to older patients:

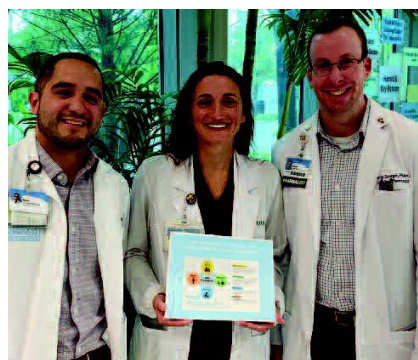
- **What Matters:** Know and align care with each older adult's specific health outcome goals and care preferences including, but not limited to, end-of-life care and across settings of care;

- **Medication:** If medication is necessary, use age-friendly medications across settings of care that do not interfere with the older adult's mobility, mentation (mental status), and what matters to the individual;
- **Mentation:** Prevent, identify, treat, and manage dementia, depression, and delirium across settings of care; and
- **Mobility:** Ensure that older adults move safely every day in order to maintain function and do what matters to them.

One example of the "4Ms" in action at SMH includes the deployment of specially trained mobility techs in nursing areas to help patients get moving earlier in their hospital stay. Research has shown that early mobility can result in improved patient outcomes.

Another 4M initiative is SMH's Reliable Energetic Active Compassionate Helpline (REACH) pilot program, in which teen volunteers visit patients 65 and older in selected nursing units to provide friendly conversation and activities.

An example of a "Mentation" practice is the participation of three units — 5 Waldemere, 8 East Tower and Orthopedics



Members of the Pharmacy team, including l-r) Pharmacists Ryan Mejia, Dawn Leonards, and Kevin Scorgie, are helping to promote medication safety for geriatric patients.

Orthopedics was one of three units taking part in an Age-Friendly pilot project to enhance care for patients with delirium. Kneeling l-r are Martha Lopez and Jette Madsen Nabergall. Standing: Jessica Roggow, Bunny Planck, Lisa Kennedy, Maria Tepe, Heather Kotloski and Julie Webster.



— in a pilot program that helps assess and identify patients in delirium and implements nursing interventions for prevention. In addition, pharmacists in SMH nursing units play a key role in the "Medication" intervention by assisting in reviewing medication lists, eliminating high-risk medications in the geriatric population and offering suggestions for safer alternatives and dosages. "Sarasota Memorial has always been a leader in patient care, and that's why we want to participate in this important initiative," said SMH Chief Nursing Officer Connie Andersen. "We look forward to both sharing our best practices and learning what's working for others."

earned special recognition for being "Committed to Care Excellence," which is given to organizations that have demonstrated their leadership in the Age-Friendly movement by submitting data and other information that shows the impact of their efforts. Kudos to Geriatric Program Coordinator Tanya Hofmann, MSN, APRN, ACNS- BC and Clinical Programs Manager Jackie Garabito, MSN, RN-BC, who led SMH's Age-Friendly efforts, as well as the many departments, staff and volunteers involved in implementing the "4Ms".

Age-Friendly  
Health Systems

Committed to  
Care Excellence  
for Older Adults

"It's an important part of our overarching goal to provide older adults with the best care possible." Sarasota Memorial also

## MISSING 69 YEAR OLD MAN FOUND THROUGH SCENT EVIDENCE K9

By Scent Evidence K9

The The Illinois bloodhounds of the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit helped find and rescue a 69 year-old-man who had been missing nearly a day. The missing man is alive thanks to the teamwork of the WCSO K-9 Unit and Scent Evidence K9's, Paul Coley.

While the WCSO K-9 Team worked the case on the ground with Scent Evidence K9 CEO, Paul Coley provided overwatch and recon of the search area from his Tallahassee office in real-time. During the deployment, Paul used his new Missing Person Response Protocol to help guide the search.

The Missing Person Response Protocol was

developed by Coley to help responders achieve higher success rates during searches and has been endorsed by the Florida State University Emergency Management and Homeland Security Department. Paul was in communication with Sgt. Nick Cunningham during the search and when the team located the man in a heavily wooded bean field.

"The Protocol is quickly making believers within law enforcement agencies who are looking to implement integrated search strategies the way we did with WCSO," said Coley.

Integrated Search Strategies played an important role in the successful location of the missing man. WCSO not only has 3 scent



Above: Paul Coley assisting with the rescue in Tallahassee.

discriminate bloodhounds in their Unit but they also have a new tool developed by Scent Evidence K9 called The SEKR.

The SEKR allows the handlers to collect and store a better scent article from practically any source and helps eliminate the potential for contamination. "Our law enforcement partners have collected scent from used needles, taser darts, and cellphones and successfully located their targets," said Coley.

WCSO also promotes the use of Scent Preservation Kits®. The Scent Kit was developed by Scent Evidence K9 to give responders the best possible scent article to trail. The kit allows a person to pre-collect their unique odor before they get lost or go missing.

A person can't lose their scent and, to a trained K-9, it's as identifiable as their fingerprint. Watch WCSO demonstrate the Scent Preservation Kit [HERE](#).

## SAVING CLAIRE: THE STORY OF DENYING GRAVITY

The documentary, "Saving Claire," tells the story of the play, "Denying Gravity" and the dramatic impact it has had on audiences throughout Pinellas County, FL. It highlights the tremendous efforts of Regional 911, EMS and community Fire Departments in reducing Falls Calls. It also features Pinellas County's Falls Prevention Coalition, Better Living for Seniors (BLS), and the Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas, Inc. (AAAPP), along with people who work day to day improving the lives of our senior community.

"Saving Claire" will be released and distributed through National Public Television then Amazon, Prime, and Hulu and was submitted to Netflix and other networks in September.

The film will also be distributed to libraries and universities around the nation.

PBS has 350 stations with an audience of 75 million viewers. Based on audited performances of similar Public Television programs "Saving Claire" is expected to reach 175-275 stations, have

400-800 cumulative airings over a 12-month period and be seen by 22-75 million viewers with an average age of 64 years old.

THE GROUNDBREAKING DOCUMENTARY



Does Linda Goldman have to kill her friend Claire to save her?

# FLORIDA'S STATE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

*Creating a Florida That is Livable for ALL*

By Jeanne Curtin, Esq.,  
Director of Livable Florida

As previously reported in *Elder Update*, in March, Governor DeSantis highlighted some of his key directives that support Floridians living with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) and their caregivers. One of the Governor's directives was to add a section in the State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) that is exclusively devoted to ADRD. You may be wondering what the SHIP is and what has happened since March.

The SHIP is a state-wide plan to improve the health of all Floridians. The Florida Department of Health (DOH) manages the SHIP, and the SHIP is overseen by a steering committee. The SHIP steering committee is comprised of stakeholders from across the state, including state and local government agencies, health care providers, advocacy groups, employers, non-profit entities, and universities and schools, who collaborate to identify opportunities to improve the health of Floridians. The Florida Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) is one of those stakeholders.

The SHIP steering committee originally established eight priority areas: health equity; maternal & child health; immunizations; injury, safety & violence; healthy weight, nutrition &

physical activity; behavioural health, which includes mental illness and substance abuse; sexually transmitted diseases, which includes other infectious diseases; and chronic diseases & conditions, which including tobacco-related illnesses and cancer.

Each priority area in the SHIP is broken down into broad goals and then further broken down into strategies and objectives. The objectives are measurable and include due dates to ensure that progress is quantifiable and able to be tracked so that the SHIP may continually be updated to reflect current issues and opportunities in Florida's public health system. The SHIP is a living, breathing plan.

Since March, DOEA has:

- Partnered with DOH and the Alzheimer's Association to identify other stakeholders who should be involved in the new ADRD priority area;
- Volunteered to serve as co-chair of the new ADRD priority area, along with Michelle Branham of the Alzheimer's Association;
- Identified goals for the new ADRD priority area;
- Invited other stakeholders to share their time and expertise



by serving on a committee of the new ADRD priority area; and

3. Protect individuals with ADRD from further vulnerability.

- Presented with the Alzheimer's Association to the SHIP steering committee an initial set of goals, strategies, and objectives for the new ADRD priority area.

I am thrilled to report that on June 5th, the SHIP steering committee adopted ADRD as the ninth priority area in the SHIP! This was only possible because of the partnership DOEA has with DOH, the Alzheimer's Association, and other stakeholders. We collectively moved quickly, but thoughtfully, and the members of the SHIP steering committee welcomed this important new priority area into the SHIP.

The 3 goals of the ADRD priority area are:

1. Identify a state-wide system of resources and support to formalize the ADRD network.
2. Strengthen the capacity of care organizations to assess, diagnose, and treat individuals with ADRD and expand support for their caregivers.

So why was it important to include ADRD in Florida's SHIP? Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death in Florida, yet it was not directly addressed by the SHIP (although each of the other top ten causes of death were addressed by the SHIP). The Alzheimer's Association projects there are 560,000 Floridians living with Alzheimer's disease – a number (which does not include those living with other forms of dementia) that is expected to increase to more than 720,000 by 2025.

Thanks to the vision of Governor DeSantis and Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez, Florida is the only state in the nation to have a priority area in its SHIP devoted exclusively to the care of those living with ADRD and their caregivers. I look forward to keeping you apprised of work being done via the SHIP to improve the lives of those living with ADRD and their caregivers. Together, we can ensure that our state is a place all Floridians can, and want to, call home!

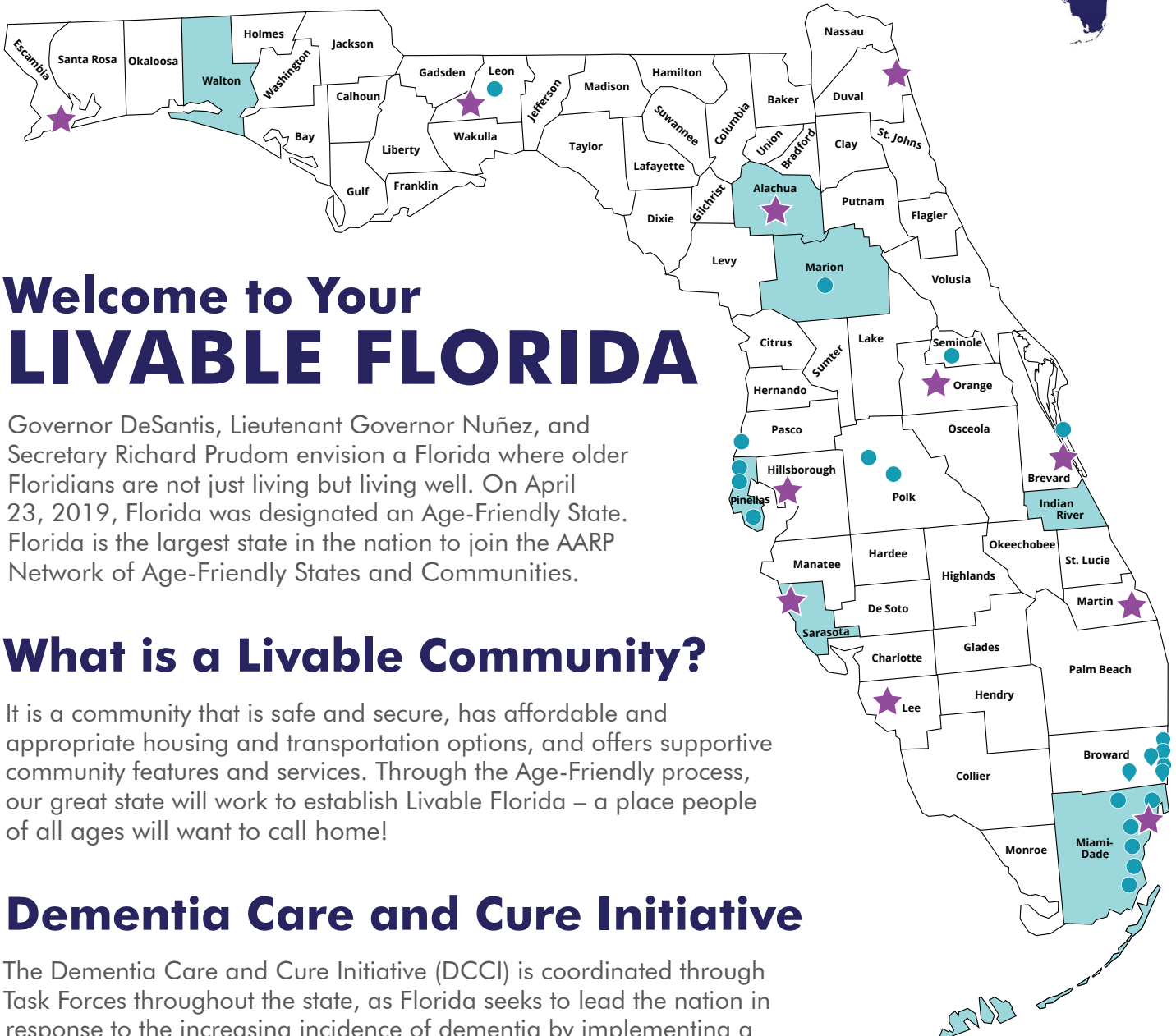
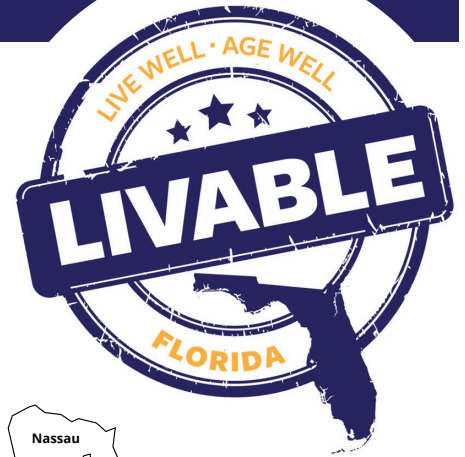


## MAP KEY

 Age-Friendly County

 Age-Friendly City

 DCCI Task Force



## Welcome to Your LIVABLE FLORIDA

Governor DeSantis, Lieutenant Governor Nuñez, and Secretary Richard Prudom envision a Florida where older Floridians are not just living but living well. On April 23, 2019, Florida was designated an Age-Friendly State. Florida is the largest state in the nation to join the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities.

## What is a Livable Community?

It is a community that is safe and secure, has affordable and appropriate housing and transportation options, and offers supportive community features and services. Through the Age-Friendly process, our great state will work to establish Livable Florida – a place people of all ages will want to call home!

## Dementia Care and Cure Initiative

The Dementia Care and Cure Initiative (DCCI) is coordinated through Task Forces throughout the state, as Florida seeks to lead the nation in response to the increasing incidence of dementia by implementing a statewide effort to become more dementia caring – acting to support those affected by dementia, bettering communities and the state overall.

[ElderAffairs.org/doea/livable\\_communities.php](http://ElderAffairs.org/doea/livable_communities.php)

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## WELCOME TO FLORIDA'S AGE-FRIENDLY NETWORK

### FLORIDA:

Joined: 2019 | Population: 21.3M

### ALACHUA:

Joined: 2019 | Population: 266,944

### CORAL GABLES:

Joined: 2018 | Population: 50,815

### CLEARWATER:

Joined: 2019 | Population: 155,513

### 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

### INDIAN RIVER:

Joined: 2019 | Population: 154,383

### LAKE LAND:

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

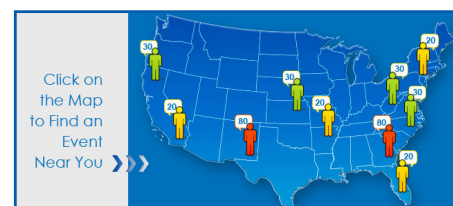
### WINTER HAVEN:

Joined: 2015 | Population: 35,531

For more information, contact:  
AARP Florida, 866-595-7678,  
[flaarp@aarp.org](mailto:flaarp@aarp.org)

## CAR FIT FOR THE OLDER DRIVER

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, Please [Click Here](#)



## Driver Safety



## Elder Update

*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. Visit [elderaffairs.org/doea/elderupdate.php](http://elderaffairs.org/doea/elderupdate.php) to sign up.

# DEMENTIA CARE AND CURE INITIATIVE

The Dementia Care and Cure Initiative (DCCI) currently has 11 Dementia-Caring communities throughout Florida, where Task Forces lead the charge to implement dementia-sensitive solutions for local residents.

## NORTHWEST FLORIDA

The Northwest Florida DCCI Task Force serves the counties of Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton and has been having great success in providing the DCCI dementia sensitivity training at congregate meal sites throughout their service area. This training covers the basics of dementia, signs and symptoms of dementia, communication techniques, and information about local resources serving those with Alzheimer's disease and dementia and their care partners. Recent meal sites that have received this training include:

- First United Methodist Church of Pace, Florida (Santa Rosa County);
- Gull Point Community Center (Escambia County);
- Beulah Senior Center (Escambia County);
- Westwood Homes Apartments (Escambia County);
- E.H. Pullum Senior Center (Santa Rosa County; and
- Johnson Lake Apartment (Escambia County).

## BIG BEND

The DCCI Task Force of the Big Bend is working to develop a training specifically for persons living with dementia and caregivers in crisis to prevent emergency Baker Acts. This training will be provided to staff of a behavioral health facility in the Big Bend, where a mobile response team operates and provides crisis intervention services. Additionally, several Task Force members are collaborating to bring three different Powerful Tools for Caregivers classes to the area in October, which is an

evidence-based education program that equips caregivers with the tools they need to take better care of themselves while caring for others. Recent entities who have taken part in the free DCCI dementia sensitivity training include:

- Florida Sheriff's Association;
- Florida State University Internal Medicine;
- Residents at Tallahassee Memorial Health Care; and
- Tapestry Senior Living.

If you have not already liked this group on Facebook, please do so by clicking [here](#).

## JACKSONVILLE

This Task Force was recently awarded a grant from the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida that will support the development of a Memory Cafe. in the New Town community of Duval County. This Memory Cafe. will be held once a month for 2 hours, at various facilities in New Town, and the goal is to build a support system in a community where resources for caregivers and individuals with ADRD are limited. These monthly Memory Cafes will engage older adults with ADRD and their caregivers, offer a brief respite from the demands of caregiving, build social support and connections among ADRD caregivers, and improve access to additional support services. Congratulations to the Jacksonville DCCI Task Force on this accomplishment, and we look forward to hearing more!

## GREATER GAINESVILLE

The Greater Gainesville DCCI Task Force has connected with several stakeholders in Marion County who are interested in becoming dementia



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CARE & CURE INITIATIVE  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ELDER AFFAIRS

caring. To kick off this partnership, Task Force members provided the dementia sensitivity training to a group of law enforcement officers in Marion County at the end of July. This presentation was a part of multi-hour crisis intervention training, where Task Force members had the floor for an hour. Marion County Commissioner Jeff Gold was in attendance, when asked about the dementia sensitivity training, he said, "It was awesome! Exceeded all expectations." Afterwards, a presentation was done by Marion Senior Services about services they offer. This is just the start of what is to come in Marion County with DCCI.

## BREVARD

Members of this Task Force brought the DCCI dementia sensitivity training to the district meeting of Alpha Delta Kappa (ADK) in September, which is an honorary organization of women educators dedicated to educational excellence, altruism, and world understanding. This organization had identified dementia as a cause they would like to know more about.

## ORLANDO

The Orlando DCCI Task Force has welcomed several new members around the table, including an individual living with dementia and their care partner, a caregiver for someone living with dementia, the new coordinator at Brain Fitness Club, and representatives from Orlando Health and Senior Resource Alliance. Welcome to all, and thank you for sharing your time, talents, experiences, and



expertise with the Orlando DCCI Task Force.

### TAMPA

The Tampa DCCI Task Force is working closely with the founder of Purple Table Reservations to launch the Purple Tables Initiative in Hillsborough County. A Purple Table Reservation is designed for those who are living with dementia/Alzheimer's disease, autism, TBI, a hearing or vision impairment, or other physical or cognitive conditions that may benefit from a more predictable environment and additional accommodations when dining out. There is a training for restaurant staff designed by Purple Table Reservations, and it is being edited to include DCCI dementia sensitivity training information, so stay tuned to see which restaurant comes onboard first in Hillsborough County!



*Teenage volunteers involved in REACH taking part in DCCI Dementia Sensitivity Training with the Sarasota DCCI Taskforce*

### SARASOTA

The Sarasota DCCI Task Force has recruited 19 new community trainers to facilitate DCCI Dementia Sensitivity trainings throughout Sarasota County. These recruits attended a train-the-trainer session in August.

Over the summer, the Volunteer & Geriatric Departments at Sarasota Memorial Hospital piloted a new volunteer program, REACH (Reliable

Energetic Active Compassionate Helpers), for teenage volunteers. Teens participating in the REACH program visit patients 65 and older on selected nursing units, bringing puzzles, activities, company, and smiles.

### FORT MYERS

The Fort Myers DCCI Task Force provided a series of dementia sensitivity trainings for staff of Lee Tran in August. Lee Tran is responsible for operating the public transit system that serves Lee County and operates 24 bus routes, a para-transit service for the disabled called Passport, and an employee vanpool program. In total, Lee Tran has approximately 180 drivers who have face-to-face contact with the community on a regular basis and are likely to be transporting individuals living with dementia and their care partners. There were several in-person sessions provided for transit drivers, and one of these sessions was taped for those who were not able to attend. In addition to bus and para-transit drivers and operators attending these trainings, other Lee Tran staff included supervisors, customer service representatives, and HR staff. Other entities in Lee County who have taken part in the DCCI dementia sensitivity training recently include:

- American House Coconut Point
- Train-the-Trainer for the Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida

### MARTIN COUNTY

The Martin County HUGS, is an initiative to create an environment where those living with dementia and their caregivers are treated with respect and dignity. This group

provides opportunities, education, and awareness to Martin County citizens so that everyone may be able to respond to families living with dementia in a way that is kind and understanding. Martin County HUGS has joined forces with the Dementia Care and Cure Initiative as our 11th Task Force, and we look forward to seeing where this partnership leads. Welcome, Martin County HUGS!

### MIAMI

The Miami DCCI Task Force now has a decal (pictured below), and once DCCI dementia sensitivity trainings are held in the community, this decal will be given to those who have participated to show that their business/community organization is dementia caring



Please note: All DCCI Task Force meetings are publicly noticed and may be attended by phone at the number below:

Conference Line: 1-888-585-9008  
Conference Room Number:  
600 513 360#

For more information, email:  
[DCCI@elderaffairs.org](mailto:DCCI@elderaffairs.org)