

# The Nevada Dementia Care Specialist Program Pilot: An Overview

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(Training and Technical Assistance for the Dementia Care Specialist Program)

# Dementia Care Specialist Program Overview

Goal: Expand Nevada's efforts to build a dementia-capable system, by targeting efforts to support individuals in crisis and strengthening efforts to increase training for professionals in LTSS to be dementia capable.

This project includes three objectives:

1. Develop specialized, community-based support for people living with dementia to address needs during crisis and connect to long-term care planning assistance.
2. Expand the NV Dementia Toolbox to include the evidence-based intervention, Opening Minds through Art.
3. Strengthen DFNV efforts to support ongoing growth of dementia-friendly communities, by embedding these efforts into existing NWD administration.

# Dementia Care Specialist – Key Functions

- One-on-one crisis response and stabilization for individuals living with dementia (and their families) as an alternative to emergency room and psychiatric hospital placements. Referrals are primarily received through emergency response personnel but can be community-based.
- Conduct memory screenings using the MoCA screening tool and make referrals to obtain an accurate diagnosis.
- Connect families with a Resource and Service Navigator to support long-term care planning and connection to community-based services.
- Provide training and education to community providers, families, and individuals on person- and relationship-centered support to increase awareness of dementia and dementia-capability.
- Lead and co-facilitate local dementia-friendly efforts in assigned region to expand community-based support.
- Promote the Nevada Dementia Supports Toolbox of services and connect to available services.

# Pilot Details – Regions and Training

- Dementia Care Specialists (DCS) will be embedded in existing Nevada Care Connection Resource Centers, assigned to 1 of 5 service regions. (red = active DFNV group)
  - Clark & southern Nye;
  - Washoe;
  - Northern-Carson, Lyon, Churchill, Douglas, Mineral, Storey;
  - Southern-Esmeralda, Lincoln, Northern Nye;
  - Rural-Elko, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Pershing, White Pine
- UNR-DEER is contracted to support development of the DCS program materials, including an Implementation Guide
- UNR-DEER will support dementia-specific training utilizing existing training and tools available, including, but not limited to: First Responder Training, MoCA Cognition, Dementia Friends Champions Training, and Dementia Friendly Nevada Community Group Co-Facilitator Training.

# Project Tasks

- Complete subawards for DEER and Nevada Care Connection Resource Centers. (ADSD)
- Development of the DCS pilot program, including administrative tasks. (ADSD/DEER)
- Develop service specifications and job description. (ADSD/DEER)
- Develop QA plan for DCS activities to include desk manual, reporting requirements, and outreach materials. (ADSD/Evaluator)
- Finalize training program include dementia-capability, resource and service navigation, DFNV efforts, and memory screening. (DEER)
- Coordinate the development of an outreach plan with the Nevada Care Connection Resource Centers to reach target populations. (DEER/NCCRCs)
- Complete contractual documents for program evaluator and finalize evaluation plan. (ADSD/Evaluator)

# Implementation in 3 Regions

- Identify 3 priority areas based on existing Dementia Friendly Nevada communities, evaluating needs and priorities in each area. (ADSD/DEER)
- Conduct an orientation meeting for Nevada Care Connection Resource Centers to review program requirements and begin recruitment efforts. (ADSD)
- Hire DCS positions and begin training, including Opening Minds through Art reporting and project data collection for July 1 kickoff. (ADRC/DEER)
- Conduct marketing and outreach activities to promote DCS program. (NCCRCs)
- Conduct monthly meetings for project team to share successes, challenges, and program changes (if needed). (ADSD)
- Provide 1:1 crisis intervention support to individuals and families. (DCS)
- Provide 1:1 navigation assistance to individuals and families. (DCS/NCCRCs)

# Increasing Dementia Capability

- Increase dementia capability among Nevada Care Connection Resource Navigators and No Wrong Door partners. (DCS)
- Research and evaluate existing dementia-capable training programs. (DEER)
- Select training programs to implement. (DEER)
- Conduct ‘train the trainer’ programs with DCS and ADSD Training Coordinator. (DEER)
- Train up to 30 Navigators and partners annually. (DCS/ADSD)

# Opening Minds through Art

Objective: Expand the Nevada Dementia Supports Toolbox to include the evidence-based intervention, Opening Minds through Art (OMA)

- Conduct a competitive subaward application process to offer mini-grants for program start-up
- Target 3 to 5 community partners to implement OMA, aligning with DCS pilot where feasible.
- Utilize DCS to help promote OMA and other Toolbox services.
- Promote partnership between community partner organizations and existing art programs (high school/post-secondary) to encourage intergenerational programming.
- Provide a respite opportunity for family care partners through an engaging, interactive, meaningful activity.
- Utilize OMA Art Shows to raise dementia awareness, foster intergenerational friendships, decrease stigma, and promote brain health education and other resources.



# Opening Minds through Art – Implementation

- Community partners (sub-awardees) complete an online OMA facilitator training and begin volunteer recruitment.
- Volunteers complete a shorter online OMA volunteer training.
- Promotion and outreach to recruit OMA program participants.
- Each community partner will then provide two 6-to-8-week OMA series per year for up to 10 participants per series.
- Coordinate statewide OMA Art Exhibit in partnership with DCS.
- Short video about OMA: <https://scrippsoma.org/about/videos/>

# Dementia Friendly Nevada Expansion

Objective: Strengthen DFNV efforts to support ongoing growth of dementia-friendly communities by embedding these efforts into existing No Wrong Door administration (via DCS Program).

## Key Activities:

- Identify areas for expansion based on DCS implementation.
- Update and revise the DFNV Co-Facilitator Toolkit to reflect new DCS program infrastructure.
- Gradually transition DFNV local support to DCS Program for sustainability.
- Target specific communities of underserved populations, including but not limited to veterans, LGBTQ+ communities, non-English speakers, and populations of color

# Questions, Comments and Discussion