

University of Southern Indiana  
Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program



AIM Nursing Home Consortium Monthly Newsletter  
April 2026

Oral Health and Dementia



Upcoming Educational Meeting  
*Free Continuing Education*

**TOMORROW!** Wednesday, April 29

**1 - 2:30 p.m. CT**

**Topic: "Connecting Care and Oral Health in Dementia Support"**

Please complete the Zoom registration before the meeting. To do so, please click the blue button below and register. After registering, you will receive an email immediately after that will provide a link to access the meeting.

[Zoom Registration](#)

[Visit Our Website](#)

## Meet The Panelist: Emily Holt

### *Connecting Care and Oral Health in Dementia Support*

Emily Holt is a registered dental hygienist, certified dental assistant, and clinical professor of dental hygiene and dental assisting at the University of Southern Indiana.

She has been a PAC certified independent trainer since 2020, publishing and presenting locally and nationally the connections between dementia and the mouth.



## Upcoming USI Opportunities

### Teepa Snow's Positive Approach to Care

#### *Upcoming Training and Certification*



The USI GWEP is hosting a training and certification in partnership with Teepa Snow's Positive Approach to Care (PAC)! 8 hours of continuing education credits will be provided at no cost for the in-person portion of the training - in addition to breakfast and lunch.

Training is first-come first-served, with a priority on nursing home staff educators. Please express interest no later than May 18, 2026, so that we can assess if slots are available to non-Staff Educators.

**When is the training?** Thursday, June 18, 2026, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. CT (in-person portion)

**Where is the training hosted?** At the University of Southern Indiana (in-person portions) and Zoom (virtual portions)

**Who is this training for?** For nursing home Staff Educators who can then train their staff on the dementia care techniques.

**What is a Dementia Educator?** Certified Dementia Educators will:

- Demonstrate Snow Approach skills of Positive Physical Approach™, Hand-under-Hand®, GEMS® State Support and GEMS® State identification
- Gain basic dementia awareness and knowledge by watching *Accepting the Challenge* online video modules and obtaining a score of 80% or higher on the associated quizzes
- Gain knowledge by taking a Champion Knowledge Quiz and scoring 80% or higher
- Gain awareness and knowledge of the Adult Experiential Learning Cycle, coaching cycle, consulting cycles, personality traits, learning styles, when to use each cycle and which licensed content is a great match for various audiences

**Licensed content after completion:**

- Dementia Orientation
- Workshop A: Typical vs. Atypical Aging
- Workshop B: Positive Physical Approach™ and Hand-under-Hand®
- Workshop C: GEMS® States
- Getting to Know Dementia Community Training Kit
- PAC Skills Make the Difference
- Care Partner Support Series (five-part series) - license to host groups of ten care partners at a time

**Time commitment:**

- Pre-Work (4.5 hours)
  - Accepting the Challenge + Quiz (3 hours + quiz time)

- Champions Videos + Quiz (1.5 hour + quiz time)
- In-Person Training (8 hours)
  - 1-day in-person training hosted at the University of Southern Indiana on June 18, 2026, from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. CT (8 hours)
- Post-Work (2 hours)
  - Videos Demonstrating Skill (2 hours of work preparing and practicing short videos to be reviewed by PAC Mentor)

Total time commitment to become a PAC Certified Dementia Educator: 14.5 hours over several days.

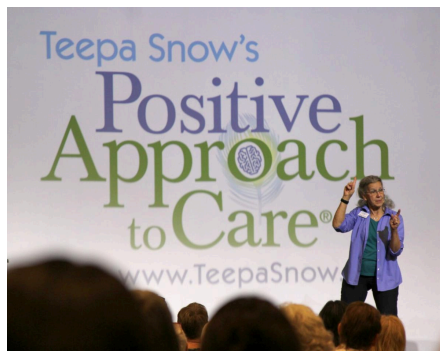
Not familiar with Teepa Snow's innovative approach to dementia care? [Learn more here.](#)

Previously certified as a PAC "Trainer" and wondering how this differs and next steps? [Learn more here.](#)

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In order to express interest in this training, please click the red button below. It will take you to our "Opt-In Initiative" survey. Please select "Teepa Snow's Positive Approach to Care **'Dementia Educator' Training and Certification.**"

Click Here to Express Interest



## Teepa Snow's Positive Approach to Care

### *Upcoming Webinar and Certification*

The USI GWEP is hosting a webinar and certification for CNAs and HHAs in partnership with Teepa Snow's Positive Approach to Care (PAC)!

If you're worried about being unable to get off the floor during working hours to attend this training, don't worry! We will provide a recording of the webinar for 1 year, and you can still complete the quiz and receive the Teepa Snow Inspired dementia care certification!

**Who is this webinar for?** CNAs and HHAs caring for people living with dementia.

**When is this webinar?** Thursday, May 21, 2026, 12 - 1 p.m. CT

**Where is this webinar hosted?** On Zoom

**What will you gain?**

- Basics of dementia
- Evidence-based approaches to person-centered dementia care
- Teepa Snow Inspired Certification
- 1 hour of continuing education credits

Not familiar with Teepa Snow's innovative approach to dementia care? [Learn more here.](#)

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In order to express interest in this training, please click the red button below. It will take you to our "Opt-In Initiative" survey. Please select "Teepa Snow's Positive Approach to Care **Webinar.**"

Click Here to Express Interest

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## Community Education Event for Seniors

*Please share with seniors in your community!*

The USI GWEP is hosting a community event for seniors in collaboration with UnitedHealthCare, Ascension St. Vincent, and SWIRCA & More. This event is an opportunity for older adults to learn about local resources and a topic specifically tailored to their needs.



Ascension



Light refreshments will be provided. There will be a 45-minute educational presentation about "Addressing Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults" and opportunities to ask questions and

learn about each partner organizations' resources. Registration is encouraged in order to plan for refreshments and handouts - but not required.

**Who is this for?** Older adults

**When:** Wednesday, July 15, 2026, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. CT

**Where:** Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library (EVPL) Central - Browning Rooms A and B

[Register Here](#)

## Other Upcoming Opportunities

### Parkinson's Foundation

*Parkinson's 101: What you and your family should know*

Upcoming events:

May 13, 6 p.m. - PD101 presented by the Parkinson's Foundation

Jun 10, 6 p.m. - Peptides and Small Molecules for PD by Paul's Pharmacy

July 11, 6 p.m. - TBD



# Parkinson's 101:

## What you and your family should know

### Date/Time:

May 13, 2026 at 6pm

### Location:

Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
5130 Lincoln Ave.  
Evansville, IN 47715

Learn more and register by  
calling PDEVV Hub at  
**(812) 297-8658** or email  
**pdevvhub@gmail.com**

We would like to invite you and anyone interested in learning to the Basics of Parkinson's Disease (PD).

Join Kim Truesdale, from the Parkinson's Foundation-Midwest Region to learn about what Parkinson's disease is, early signs, common symptoms, and more. In addition, information on the Parkinson Foundation's free resources for the PD community will also be discussed.



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## Ascension St. Vincent Mental Health

### *Supporting Independence*

Ascension St. Vincent Mental Health is pleased to offer these upcoming educational opportunities and enriching activities focused on supporting emotional wellness and whole-person care. They invite you to join them as they learn, connect, and grow together through programs that promote mental health awareness, resilience, self-care, and community well-being. Please share this information with anyone who may be interested.



A person living with dementia often wants to stay independent as long as possible. Caregivers can learn how to balance safety and manage expectations to support independence at every stage of the disease. Register online at [Supporting Independence](#) or call 1-800-272-3900.

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## SWIRCA & More *Caregiver Support Events*

We are pleased to share information about upcoming support opportunities for individuals living with dementia and for caregivers in our community.

A "Living With Dementia Support Group" will be held on May 18, 2026, at 2 p.m. at SWIRCA & More (16 W. Virginia St., Evansville, IN). This group is designed for individuals in the early stages of dementia or mild cognitive impairment and provides a supportive space to learn about the condition, share experiences, and develop coping and self-care strategies. Advance registration is required.

[Living with Dementia Support Group Flyer](#)

"Caregiver Support Groups" are available each month to support those caring for loved ones. A dementia-focused caregiver group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 3:00 PM. A general caregiver group for non-dementia-related conditions meets on the last Monday of each month at 2 p.m. A virtual caregiver support group is also offered on the third Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m. Please note that May's meetings will take place on May 18 due to the holiday schedule. For more information, to register, or to receive the virtual meeting link, please contact Linda Wright at 812-492-7443 or [lwright@swirca.org](mailto:lwright@swirca.org).

We encourage you to take advantage of these supportive resources.

[Caregiver Support Groups Flyer](#)

Swirca & More is hosting a monthly "Memory Café" for individuals living with dementia and their caregivers, offering a welcoming and supportive space to socialize, connect, and participate in engaging activities. The event will take place on May 28, 2026, at 2 p.m. at Swirca & More, located at 16 W. Virginia St. in Evansville, IN.

For more information, contact Linda Wright at 812-492-7443 or [lwright@swirca.org](mailto:lwright@swirca.org).

[Memory Cafe Flyer](#)

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## Honor Flight Southern Indiana *EVV20 Special Report*

EVV20 will take place on May 2nd. Including alternate/stand by Veterans, we have (98) Veterans processed for EVV20 Honor Flight. Our oldest two Veterans are 96, and the youngest is 76, who is a medical priority. Branches served: (12) Air Force, (50) US Army, (11) USMC, (24) US Navy, (1) US Coast Guard and three Veterans who served double branches. We have one female Veteran on EVV20. Veterans come

from the following states: Indiana, Illinois, Florida, and Kentucky. Majority of the Veterans on this flight served during the Vietnam War era. We are excited to take (86) very deserving Veterans and (86) guardians on this Honor Flight! It's an Honor & Privilege to express our sincere Gratitude and Respect to those who've served this great country. We hope their Honor Flight experience is everything they are hoping for and more!! The countdown is on. Veterans & Guardians please keep your bus captain updated if medical conditions or family situations change.

The Flight All Veterans Deserve  
[Flyer](#)

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# National Council on Aging

## 9th Annual Older Adults Mental Health Awareness Day



Registration is now open for the 9th Annual Older Adults Mental Health Awareness Day, which will be held on May 7, 2026. This event is co-sponsored with the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Registration is free and includes a full day of sessions on how to best meet the mental health needs of older adults. In partnership with Rush University's E4 Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Disparities in Aging, free continuing education (CEs) will be offered for several professions.

### Registration Details

Registration for this event is now open. To participate, please use the following registration link: <https://connect.ncoa.org/oamhad2026>.

### How to Register

- If you do not already have an account with the National Council on Aging, you will need to create one before registering.
  - If you already have an account, simply log in and complete your registration for the event.
  - Registration for the event is free of charge.
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# Alzheimer's Awareness Painting Fundraiser

JOIN US IN SUPPORTING THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION BY ENTERING OUR AUCTION OF THE PAINTINGS THAT OUR NEIGHBORS WORKED SO HARD ON

**When:** The auction will begin on May 27, 2026, and will end on June 19, 2026

**Where:** Most of our paintings will be on display in the Main Lobby here at Oasis (4301 Washington Ave), but there will be a couple posted on Facebook to bid on as well.

**How:** To bid on the ones displayed in the main lobby, you will need to come in and bid. If you are bidding on the ones on Facebook, make sure you are bidding on the original post, not any shared posts.



## Dementia Friendly Indiana Upcoming Events

Dementia Friendly Indiana has been on the move! Counties throughout the state have been working hard to make their communities more accommodating to people living with dementia. Check out the updates from several counties below.



**Vanderburgh County:** Dementia Friendly Evansville had its second Action Team meeting April 24 at EVPL Central. People from various professional backgrounds joined together with one common theme - a passion for making the community more dementia-friendly. The next Dementia Friendly

Evansville Action Team meeting is May 29, 2026, from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. CT at EVPL Central. Come join us!

**Contact:** [kellim@evpl.org](mailto:kellim@evpl.org)

**Marion County:** DFIndy will host a gathering May 20, 2 – 3:30 p.m. ET (hybrid). A Fall Festival at UIndy is set for Oct 21.

**Contact:** [h Hess@cicoa.org](mailto:h Hess@cicoa.org)

**Henry County:** Dementia education at Addison Place (New Castle) on the first Thursday monthly; youth-focused education & Dementia Live at a local church (TBD).

**Contact:** [cdavidson@lifestreaminc.org](mailto:cdavidson@lifestreaminc.org)



**Warrick County:** Joint Warrick–Spencer Memory Café held monthly (details TBD).

**Contact:** [bhancock@vinu.edu](mailto:bhancock@vinu.edu)

**Knox County:** May Dementia Friendly Community event (date/time/location TBD).

**Contact:** [bhancock@vinu.edu](mailto:bhancock@vinu.edu)

**Monroe County:** Memory Cafés and two support groups continue in Bloomington. Just launched the "Connecting Neighbors" Program. Pairs volunteers with someone who needs the support of a listening, supportive friend. "Connecting neighbors" meets social support and resource connections.

**Contact:** [daynathompson@mail.com](mailto:daynathompson@mail.com)

**Owen County:** 4th Thursday care partner support groups at Owen County Library 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 5 – 6 p.m. ET; action team ribbon cutting coming soon.

**Contact:** [aguerrettaz@area10agency.org](mailto:aguerrettaz@area10agency.org)

**Lawrence County:** "Getting to Know Dementia" series at StoneGate Arts and Education (Bedford) 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. May 9 and June 16

**Contact:** [lscott24@iuhealth.org](mailto:lscott24@iuhealth.org)



Matthew 25



## Matthew 25 - HIV & Aging Quarterly Meetings

Looking to connect with others in the aging industry? Join Matthew 25 for a quarterly HIV and Aging group for networking, updates, and learning more about what resources are available in the area. Each meeting will have a new guest speaker.

Below are the dates for this year's HIV and Aging meetings:

- May 6
- August 15
- November 4

These meetings are from 2 - 3:30 p.m. CT. The meetings are at Matthew 25's clinic at 101 NW 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Evansville, IN 47708, suite 215. They are located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the building.

[More about Matthew 25](#)

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## Grief Counseling

# Community Education and Clinical Training

The Southwestern Indiana Suicide Prevention Coalition is proud to welcome Dr. Alan Wolfelt - named one of North America's leading death educators and grief counselors.

Join them for a free community event and a special clinical education training.

## Community Event

Thursday, May 21, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Browning Room - Central Library

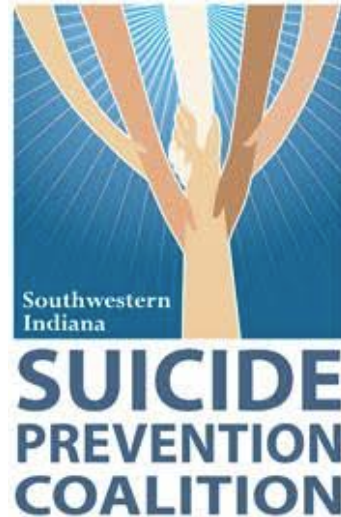
"Tending to Your Broken Heart When Someone Dies: Hope for Healing" (geared towards teens and adults)

## Clinical Training

Friday, May 22, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Southern Indiana Career and Technical Center (SICTC)

"Exploring the Special Features of Suicide Grief: A Workshop for Caregivers"



[Event Flyer](#)

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## Ascension St. Vincent Behavioral Health

### *The Harmony Program - Now Accepting Patients*



Ascension St. Vincent Behavioral Health is now offering The Harmony Program, an intensive outpatient mental health program designed specifically for adults 55 and older experiencing psychiatric symptoms that can be treated in a structured group setting.

The program provides 9 – 12 hours of group therapy per week for approximately 12 weeks, offering a supportive and therapeutic environment that is less restrictive than inpatient care. Led by compassionate, licensed mental health professionals, The Harmony Program supports older adults navigating similar life transitions and stressors.

Participation may benefit individuals experiencing:

- Depressed mood affecting ability to function as normally
- Feelings of hopelessness, helplessness, and/or worthlessness
- Symptoms of anxiety and/or panic affecting functioning
- Psychiatric symptoms that cannot be managed with a lower level of care
- Recent discharge from an inpatient psychiatric program, requiring step-down treatment
- Current mental health needs not being met by available resources

Referrals are welcome from assisted living facilities, hospitals, primary care and mental health providers, family members, caregivers, and individuals seeking treatment. The program accepts most major insurance plans, including Medicare and Medicaid.

Transportation is available via wheelchair-accessible van for residents of Vanderburgh and Warrick counties.

For more information, see [flyer](#).

The Harmony Program provides [Individual and Small Group Mental Health Therapy](#).

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## The Mind - Body Connection (Movement of the Mind)

April 29th at 2:00 pm

Retreat at Leisure Living  
2900 Cozy Court, Evansville IN 47720  
Retreat Dining Room

Join IOP Counselor, Lindsey Summers, LMHC-A, from Ascension St. Vincent for an insightful discussion on:

- The correlation between mind and body.
- Beneficial techniques for maintaining a healthy balance.



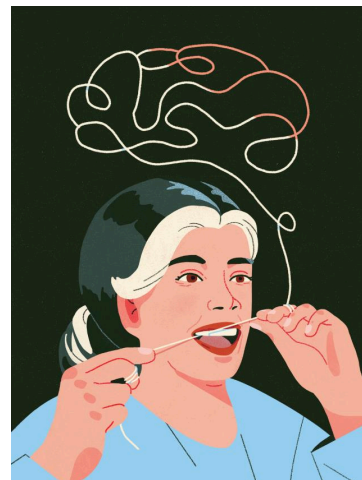
Reservations are appreciated but not required 812-485-1439



Ascension St. Vincent

## Healthcare Article

Alzheimer's disease slowly changes the brain in ways that affect memory, thinking, and independence, and it's linked to hallmark changes like beta-amyloid plaques and tau tangles that disrupt how brain cells communicate. As it progresses, everyday tasks, like oral hygiene, become increasingly difficult, which is why dental care plays a surprisingly important role in overall health for these patients. The two-part series by Emily Holt also points to a possible connection between gum disease and Alzheimer's, with chronic oral inflammation and certain bacteria potentially contributing to processes in the brain linked to the disease. For dental professionals and caregivers alike, this means that supporting patients isn't just about treating teeth; it's about adapting communication, simplifying routines, and providing hands-on help as needed to preserve comfort, dignity, and quality of life.



Part 1: [The Hallmarks of Alzheimer Disease](#)

Part 2: [Support the Oral Health of Your Patients with Alzheimer Disease](#)

## Recent Activities

### Alz Fired Up!

This week, Evansville had the privilege of welcoming Sean Terwilliger, who shared his lived experience with early-onset Alzheimer's disease through a series of meaningful engagements across our community.

On Monday evening, Sean offered a reading from an upcoming book, blending humor and vulnerability in a way that deeply resonated with attendees and highlighted the human realities of living with the disease.

On Tuesday afternoon, he spoke with the Deaconess Family Medicine Residency Program, emphasizing the importance of early diagnosis and offering valuable insight into delivering an Alzheimer's diagnosis with clarity, compassion, and respect.





Later that evening, Sean participated in a community Q&A discussion alongside Reagan Lawrence, the pre-med student who initiated and coordinated the visit. The conversation provided perspective on living with Alzheimer's, participating in clinical trials, and navigating complex healthcare and insurance systems.

Sean and his wife, Wendy Terwilliger, are both compelling communicators. Together, they uniquely represent the patient and caregiver perspectives, offering a powerful and

holistic voice for advocacy and understanding. We are grateful for the opportunity to help amplify their message and provide space for their experiences to be heard.

It was truly an honor to host them and to support conversations that matter because these stories are worth hearing.

Learn more about Sean's work and advocacy: <https://www.alzfiredup.com/>



## Geriatric Simulations, Dementia Live, and Minka Tours for Interdisciplinary USI Students

This month, we hosted another successful round of geriatric simulations (tremor simulator and arthritis simulator), Dementia Live dementia simulations, and tours of the Minka Learning Lab for Living Well for interdisciplinary USI students.

## What is the AIM Nursing Home Consortium?

### Join the USI GWEP AIM Nursing Home Consortium!

The [USI Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program \(GWEP\)](#) has established a [nursing home consortium, AIM \(Advance, Improve, Move\)](#), designed to support nursing home leaders with education and innovative opportunities to grow age- and dementia-friendly care.

### How to Join?

Become an AIM Nursing Home Consortium member by attending one of our quarterly educational meetings or [opting in to one or more of our initiatives](#).

### Quarterly Educational Meetings

Quarterly meetings featuring national and regional experts will be hosted on Zoom, with **free continuing education credits** offered at each meeting.

*The AIM Nursing Home Consortium is made possible through the USI GWEP. Continuing education credits are provided by the Center for Health Professions Lifelong Learning - funded by the Bronstein Center for Healthy Aging and Wellness.*

**USI<sup>®</sup> GWEP**  
Geriatrics Workforce  
Enhancement Program

For additional information or any inquiries regarding the AIM Nursing Home Consortium, please contact Gracie Money, the USI GWEP Grant Coordinator.

gamoney@usi.edu  
812-464-1894

Health Professions Center, 3092

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