

Notes from July 7th DFW-LC Meeting Panelist Notes:

Allyson Schrier from Momentia Eastside Engagement Team, King County

Momentia Eastside Engagement Team is a consortium of groups and individuals that provide programming for people living with dementia and their care partners. During COVID some of the partner organizations transitioned to virtual (Virtual zoo walks, virtual sing-alongs). The first in-person programs to be offered are taking place on July 10th (A DF nature walk at Confluence Park in Issaquah) and an outdoor dance (also in Issaquah).

Key take-aways: [at the time of this writing the walk has taken place and this is reflected in these notes]

- We are only doing outdoor programming at this time
- Mask policies are clearly stated on marketing materials as being consistent with local regulations at the time of the event [note– at the walk we checked in with attendees about mask preference; if anyone at all wished for all comers to wear masks, we would comply. As it turned out, all comers were comfortable without masks]
- We plan to ask attendees to sign COVID waiver [note this did not actually happen at the walk]
- We required pre-registration, though if anyone just showed up they would not be turned away [note: the only people who showed up for the walk had, in fact pre-registered]
- On reflection we felt that our messaging for our walk [A Walk in the Park for People Living with Memory Loss or Dementia] was exclusive; a future walk would simply be marketed as A Gently-paced Walk in the Park, with an indication that THIS IS A DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY EVENT.

Patricia Srodawa, Our Time Memory Café, Hopkinton, MA

Previously hosted memory cafes in public library. Had considered hosting in senior center but Library was chosen because it was felt to be neutral. No stigma about age, no religious affiliation. At each session they served coffe/tea and cookies.

With Covid they transitioned to virtual. Usual attendance of 24-30 people dropped significantly, so they partnered with other Memory Cafes to increase numbers, and frequency of sessions.

They recognized that for some people, virtual was far better. But for some people, only live would work.

Libraries were closed, so they opted to host at a senior center. In June they had 31 participants. Not prudent to have bulk food so they served Klondike ice cream bars and bottled water. Music

therapist led sing along, had dancing, an artist presented for an hour, plus socialization. Pulled this together in just 1.5 weeks.

- Reached out to people who had attended memory cafes or support groups
- Took the time to phone individuals and invite them personally
- Enlisted a music therapist
- Got RSVPs
- Did NOT ASK IF VACCINATED: Instead said that one must wear a mask if not vaccinated, and masks are welcome to be worn by all who feel more comfortable that way.
- Only had round table (at the library they'd used rectangular) and they discovered round was better!
- Social distancing as much as possible.
- Hand sanitizer on tables.
- Volunteers are not busy serving beverages so instead sit at the tables and engage.
- Discovered they prefer the senior center over the library!

Oscar Haupt and Megan McCoy, Providence ElderPlace, Spokane County

They closed for a few days, then worked with DSHS and AAA figured out how to keep people socially distant and safe.

Numbers went from 60-70 to just 5-6 attendees per day

Also opened a PACE clinic in Spokane at the same time

Prior to COVID they hosted a monthly Memory Café that typically had 20-25 attendees which has remained closed.

Modifications made to stay open:

- Every client had their own private table to sit at (Providence helped finance this)
- Staff helped participants keep masks on
- Game playing was modified to give all participants their own bucket of supplies (dice, colored pencils etc)
- Changed-up balloon volleyball to use foam noodles instead of hands for sanitary reasons
- Had disinfect building every 2 hours – that was a condition for staying open, and was huge work.

Now they have around 20 attendees who come just once a week instead of the 3 times per week that was normal prior to Covid. Groups are split into 10 and 10, each with a care partner.

