

Report to HUB Council and Partners
Alzheimer Society of British Columbia *Dementia Friends* Workshop
Kitsilano Neighbourhood House – April 19, 2015

The Event

Fifty-six (56) participants registered (4 at the event) and 43 attended the workshop. Including volunteers, over 50 attended the event. Participants represented 6 different organizations plus 9 west side churches.

Rebecca Morris, Advocacy Analyst with the Society, presented the workshop, assisted by Jim Mann, a person living with dementia. Both speakers were excellent - personable and informative. The Dementia Friends (DF) workshop is designed as an overview for anyone who might know or encounter a person with the disease.

Of the 34 individuals who returned evaluations (68%) only one person indicated that the workshop had not met their expectations. Small group discussion at the end of the workshop on how to create more dementia-friendly communities (DFC) was valued by participants, as was the summary of those ideas shared by email after the event.

The Kits House venue worked well. The room was bright and the staff/volunteers were very helpful. The elevator was a bit of a challenge as it was initially locked on weekend security access.

Excellent work by everyone involved!

Recommendations for Future DF Workshops:

- Consider adding an interactive small group discussion segment to future workshops. Participants valued it and organization-specific groupings could be used in staff training, for example, to generate ideas for follow-up discussion and implementation within specific organizations.
- There were no requests at the end of the workshop for certificates to be personalized. A certificate without the "presented to" line might be sufficient another time.
- The Alzheimer Society resource card on *Communications Strategies* and *Five Things to Share about Dementia* is a valuable tool that should be distributed widely.
- A Resource List for the workshop was developed by the Vancouver Public Library (VPL) and distributed in advance to those who registered by email. The VPL contribution was valued and the Resource List should be considered for future events.

Thoughts for SWG on Future Events:

- Church participation might have been greater if the workshop had been held at a church. However, the topic may not have been for everyone. The poster mentioned the SWG as

a HUB partner but many people would not have known the SWG is a church related group until the workshop introduction at the event.

- Most of those registering by phone assumed it was the Kits House office number. So continue to consider a new name and logo for the SWG to more accurately reflect its expanding church representation.
- Next time consider having one volunteer handle phone registration and another manage email registrations, then one person can compile the two lists.
- Obtain authorization for future email distribution from participants at the registration desk, rather than at workshop tables. Only 17 signatures were obtained.
- Suggest not attempting to get permission to take photos of participants at future events. Instead, just take photos of the speakers. As it turned out, no one took any photos anyway!

Reflections on Co-sponsored HUB Events

Multiple sponsors (in this case Kits House and SWG) shares work. But it increases the need for communication. A roles and responsibilities (R&R) check list proved a valuable coordination tool.

Joint sponsorship of events builds trust among partners and widens the sense of community. It should be encouraged among HUB partners. This report plus feedback from HUB Council members who attended the workshop should be used by the Health and Wellness Committee to make recommendations to the Council and Hub Partner organizations on further collaboration with the Alzheimer Society.

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