

University of Southern Indiana Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program



AIM Nursing Home Consortium Monthly Newsletter May 2026

Recent AIM Activities



National Alzheimer's Association Webinar for Long-Term Care Professionals

Gene Kuhn, a National Alzheimer's Association expert, spoke to nursing home staff on May 5 during his webinar about "Care and Support Resources for HC Professionals, Families and Caregivers." He shared the extensive resources available for healthcare professionals and unpaid caregivers of people living with dementia that the Alzheimer's Association offers including but not limited to the 24/7 Helpline, support for families, people living with dementia, and healthcare professionals, education programs, and more.

Contact Gracie Money, USI GWEP Grant Coordinator, to request a recording of the webinar.
Email: gamoney@usi.edu

Positive Approach to Care Webinar for CNAs and HHAs

Beth Nolan, PhD, the Chief Public Health Officer for Teepa Snow's Positive Approach to Care, presented on May 21 about PAC's relationship-centered caregiving techniques for caregivers and people living with dementia. The session explained the importance of giving visual and verbal cues and receiving consent before touching someone they are caring for. It was full of insightful information about how the brain works, especially in varying stages of dementia, and how knowing this should change the way we care for people living with dementia - always sustaining their dignity and preserving their independence as long as possible.



Contact Gracie Money, USI GWEP Grant Coordinator, to request a recording of the webinar.



A Matter of Balance and BingoCize

A Matter of Balance and BingoCize programs continue strong in partnership with Generations Area 13 Agency on Aging and Disability. These programs are hosted in the community across various southern Indiana counties.

Upcoming USI GWEP Opportunities

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](#)



Upcoming Educational Meeting *Free Continuing Education*

Wednesday, July 22

1 - 2:30 p.m. CT

Topic: TBD

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](#)

Other Opportunities and Resources



Indiana State Plan on Aging Federal Fiscal Years 2027-2030




Family and Social Services Administration
Division of Aging
March 2026 Draft

Indiana State Plan on Aging *Public Comment Opportunity*

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA), Division of Disability, Aging and Rehabilitative Services, Bureau of Better Aging, has released the draft 2027–2030 Indiana State Plan on Aging. This multi-year plan outlines key goals and strategies to support older adults, their families, and caregivers across the state.

Public Comment Period

The Bureau is accepting feedback from May 1 – May 30, 2026. Community members and stakeholders are encouraged to share input to help guide priorities for the next four years.

-  Submit written comments: DAComments@fssa.in.gov (include “State Plan” in the subject line)
-  Mail comments to:
- FSSA – Bureau of Better Aging
- Attn: Latasha Hayes
- 402 W. Washington St., W454
- Indianapolis, IN 46207-7083
-  Deadline: May 30, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. EDT

To request a copy of the draft State Plan, contact:

 DAComments@fssa.in.gov |  (888) 673-0002

Public Comment Events (In-Person + Virtual)

In addition to written feedback, the Bureau is hosting opportunities for verbal public comment:

- May 28, 2026 | 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. CT Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library – Large Group Room Evansville, IN
- May 29, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. ET (Virtual Session)

[2027-2030 Indiana State Plan Draft](#)

SWIRCA & More *Caregiver Support Events*

"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.

For more information, to register, or to receive the virtual meeting link, please contact Linda Wright at 812-492-7443 or 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.





Dementia Friendly Indiana *Updates*

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. Many counties in Indiana are working to become more dementia friendly.

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

Knox County: Dementia Friendly Knox County received an excellent write-up about the work they are doing. The article includes plans for more dementia friendly counties, information about Generations Area 13 Agency on Aging and Disability, and statistics about dementia. [Read the article here.](#)

Contact: bhancock@vinu.edu

[Dementia Friendly Indiana Website](#)

Parkinson's Disease Evansville (PDEVV)

Events and Resources

Questions about your medications?

Sign Up for a Free Medication Management session with Paul's Pharmacy! Contact pdevvhub@gmail.com for your one-on-one session with a pharmacist on June 10, 16 or 17.

[Visit the PDEVV website](#) for more information about the resources and events they offer.



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.



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:

- 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 1st Street, Evansville, IN 47708, suite 215. They are located on the 2nd floor of the building.

[More about Matthew 25](#)

Mental Health Month Resources and Upcoming Opportunities



Each May, communities across the country recognize Mental Health Month - a time to promote awareness, share resources, and encourage meaningful conversations around mental well-being. With 1 in 5 individuals experiencing a mental health condition each year, prioritizing mental health is essential for overall health and quality of life.

As part of this effort, Ascension St. Vincent Mental Health is offering a variety of resources and opportunities to support emotional well-being, connection, and self-care throughout the month.

Tools for Reflection & Well-Being

To encourage mindfulness and meaningful conversations about mental wellness, the following resources are available:


- ["More Good Days" Journal Prompts](#)
- [Worksheet: Finding Things That Bring You Pleasure, Peace, and Pride](#)
- [Affirmations for More Good Days \(and why they work\)](#)

These tools are designed to support self-reflection, resilience, and everyday mental wellness for individuals at all ages and stages of life.

Upcoming Community Event

- [Spencer and Warrick Counties Memory Cafe](#)
- Wednesday, June 17, 1 - 2 p.m. CT, Ascension St. Vincent Warrick Hospital - Harmony Room
- Wednesday, July 15, 1 - 2 p.m. CT Trinity United Methodist Church
- Wednesday, August 19, 1 - 2 p.m. CT Ascension St. Vincent Warrick Hospital - Harmony Room
- A memory cafe is a supportive environment where persons with memory loss and their caregivers and/or loved ones can go to socialize and do activities.

Looking Ahead

- [2026 Suicide Prevention Walk](#)
 - September 12, 2026 | 9:00 a.m. CT
 - Garvin Park – Evansville, IN
 - Join community members in a meaningful event focused on remembrance, awareness, and hope for those impacted by suicide and mental illness.
 -  Registration available online (Suicide Prevention Walk 2026)
-



2026 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures Report *From the Alzheimer's Association*

The Alzheimer's Association just released the [2026 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures report](#), the nation's leading source of data on the impact of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia.

The 2026 report underscores that Alzheimer's disease is no longer a future concern – it is a growing clinical, workforce and financial reality for health systems today. But there are also clear opportunities to improve care through earlier detection, coordinated care models and brain health integration.

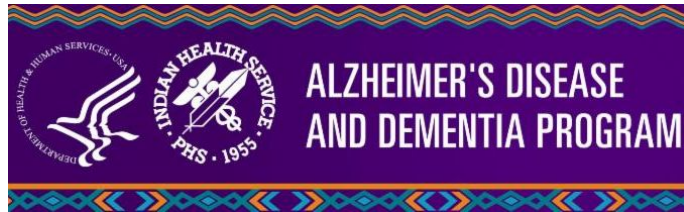
Key findings with direct relevance for health systems include:

- Rising clinical demand: In 2026, an estimated 7.4 million Americans age 65+ are living with Alzheimer's dementia, driving increased need for diagnosis, care management and long-term supportive services. The disease begins 20+ years before symptoms, yet underdiagnosis, especially early, remains common, delaying care planning and support.
- Workforce challenges: Persistent shortages of dementia specialists and growing demand for geriatric expertise threaten care access and quality.
- Significant cost and utilization impact: Total health and long-term care costs are projected to reach \$409 billion, with Medicare and Medicaid covering 64% of these costs. People living with dementia incur nearly three times higher per-person health care costs, largely due to hospitalizations, post-acute care and long-term care needs.
- Evidence for earlier, coordinated care: Research shows earlier diagnosis and coordinated dementia care models are associated with fewer hospitalizations and ED visits, delayed nursing home placement and net annual cost savings per person.

The 2026 release also includes a **Special Report, *Brain Health in America***, which highlights missed opportunities for prevention and risk reduction. While most adults say brain health is very important, few know how to maintain it, and many want guidance from health care professionals. However, they are not having those conversations, creating actionable opportunities for health systems to integrate brain health into primary, preventive and chronic care.

[Indiana's 2026 Facts and Figures Report](#)
[2026 Facts and Figures Special Report](#)

Indian Health Service Alzheimer's Program Video Series



The Indian Health Service (IHS) Alzheimer's Programs have released a [series of new videos](#) designed to support dementia awareness, timely diagnosis, and person-centered care planning. These resources are being shared nationally to assist providers, caregivers, and communities in improving dementia care and education.

We encourage you to explore and share these videos across your organizations, teams, and networks.

Video Highlights

- [Every Moment Matters: Timely Dementia Detection Helps Protect Our Stories and Our Loved Ones](#)
 - This video highlights the importance of early dementia detection through personal stories and clinical insights. Featuring the Jackson family, it demonstrates how a timely diagnosis can create opportunities for better care, planning, and support.
- [Advance Care Plans: Honoring Wishes and Traditions](#)
 - This video explores the importance of advance care planning, including how to begin conversations and ensure that care aligns with an individual's values, wishes, and cultural traditions. Perspectives include both healthcare professionals and family members.
- [Supporting Accurate and Timely Dementia Diagnosis in the Indian Health System](#)
 - This video showcases ongoing efforts within IHS to improve recognition and diagnosis of dementia, highlighting innovative programs and strategies that can help strengthen care systems and community partnerships.

Scholarly Article

Effect of Community-Based Older Adult Care Models on Mental Health: A Comprehensive Review

Community-based older adult care models demonstrated effectiveness in improving mental health outcomes; however, some challenges, such as inadequate resources and their allocation, policies,

and cultural adaptation barriers, need reform. Future initiatives should focus on expanding training programs, integrating mental health into existing community services, and strengthening financial support for older adults.

[Read the Article](#)

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.

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

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