**October 10, 2023 Supporting Older Adults and Their Families**

Sub-group: **Addressing Needs of Persons with Dementia Workgroup**

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**Area of Focus:** Develop comprehensive strategies to address the unique challenges faced by individuals with dementia and their families, including specialized care programs, dementia-friendly environments, and support services focused on memory care and cognitive stimulation.

**Group listed five challenges:**

1) reduce the stigma (refer to it as cognitive issues rather than saying dementia);

2) caregivers, medical personnel, general public need in depth education and training; 3) funding, funding, funding;

4) a huge need for medical personnel who specialize in geriatrics and neurologist geriatric/psychology; people are living longer and that issue alone has not been addressed properly; and,

5) there is a need for those who work in the Hispanic communities to be better trained to better interact with that culture and their beliefs.

**Recommendations:**

1) In addition, we discussed the lack in this and recent generations of the multi-generational families from which to draw assistance from to provide relief for the

caregivers;

2) the need for more proper diagnosis...just saying “dementia” covers a WIDE spectrum with different treatments and outcomes;

3) Medicare should better

address options for the families and the patient.

**Resources:**

1. ; North Carolina Caregiver Portal
2. UNC-Cares/tool kit;
3. Dementia Friends;
4. Dementia Friendly;
5. Project Care;
6. “memory cafes” that are appearing in various areas to allow the person living with dementia (PLWD) and caregiver an opportunity to have some outside socialization.