

The background of the slide is a white canvas with a large, vibrant splash of colors. The splash consists of numerous overlapping circles and dots in shades of red, orange, yellow, purple, and blue, creating a dynamic, artistic effect. A faint silhouette of a butterfly is visible within the purple and blue areas of the splash.

Raising Dementia Awareness Within the Village: Approaches to Implementation

Claudia Thorne, Ph.D., LISW, LCSW
Coppin State University
Baltimore, Maryland

What is Dementia? Bookshelf story : A Picture is Worth and Thousand Words



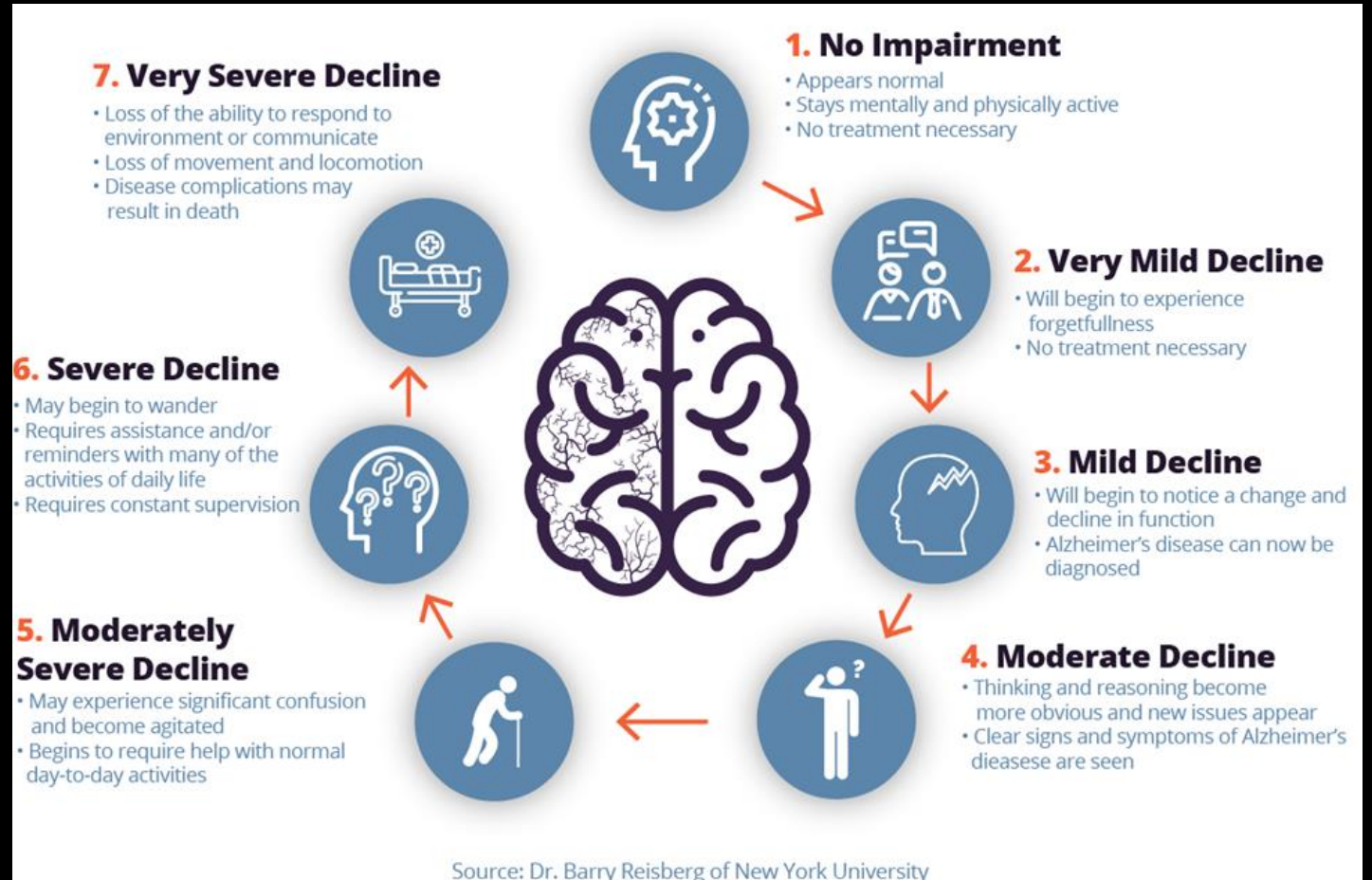
<https://www.dementiafriendsindiana.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/DFI-Session-Workbook-1.pdf>

10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's

- Memory Loss that disrupts life
- Challenges in planning or solving problems
- Difficulty in completing familiar tasks at home, work, or leisure
- Confusion with time or place
- Trouble understanding visual relationships images or spatial relationships
- New problems with words in speaking and writing
- Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps
- Decreased poor judgement
- Social Withdrawal
- Changes in mood and personality

<https://www.dementiafriendsindiana.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/DFI-Session-Workbook-1.pdf>

Stages of Dementia Progression



Diagnosing Alzheimer's

Alzheimer's Association

Early Diagnosis

Medical Benefits - Accessing Treatment, Participate in Clinical Trials, Prioritize Health

Emotional Benefits – Lessen Anxiety, Maximize Time with Family and loves Ones, Plan for the Future

More Time to Plan for the Future

Cost Savings – Saves Cost of Medical and Long -Term Care

Self Rated Priority
Areas for Caregivers
Dr. Quincy Samus
Johns Hopkins School
of Nursing 2024

- Memory Disorder Education
- Community Resources for Memory Disorder
- Understanding dementia related behavior
- Managing dementia related behavior
- Engaging PLWD in meaningful activities
- Improve communication
- Engagement of Family
- Ways to improve self regulation
- Recognizing and managing safety hazards
- Help with ADL
- Decision making
- Communicate with providers
- Prepare for transition back home
- How and when to place
- Support for self

Common Unmet Needs
for PLWD and Caregivers
Dr. Quincy Samus
Johns Hopkins School of
Nursing
(Clinical Rated)
2024

- Home Personal Safety
- General Medical Care
- Meaningful Daily Activities
- Nueropsychiatric symptoms
- Cognitive Symptoms
- Care Financing
- Legal Issues Advances Care planning
- Caregiver memory disorder education
- Caregiver Legal Concerns
- Caregiver Mental Health Care
- Caregiver Informal Support
- Caregiver Daily Living
- Caregiver General Health Care

Early Stage

Process acceptance of the diagnosis.

Treatment goals

Engage support

Safety first, avoid stress,
stay positive, offer support,
work together

Plan and make decisions

Being able to take
advantage of all these
benefits can reduce anxiety
about the unknown and lead
to better outcomes for
everyone involved.

Do things you and your
loved ones enjoy. Live
Well!!!

Middle Stage



More caregiving responsibilities

Having trouble with activities of daily living

Damage to the brain can make it more difficult

Confusion and agitation. Jumbling words

Modify the environment

Patience, structure, and organization are required

Formal and Informal Support System

Meet dementia where it is now!

Late stage

More intensive care is required.

Difficulty eating and swallowing

Need assistance walking

Needs full-time help with personal care

How to spend time with loved ones.

Touch, smell, music. What did they enjoy? Reminiscence, favorite foods, brushing hair, sitting outside on a nice day.

Decide on care. In-home. Assisted living. Nursing Home. Hospice



After Caregiving

- Loss – Grief, Relief, Guilty
 - Sleep
 - Redefining purpose
- Re-Entry
 - Time
 - Loneliness
 - Activities
 - Taking Care of You
 - Embrace Life Now

www.familycaregiveralliance.org

Maryland State Alzheimer's Plan 2022-2026

Engage With Your State and Area Agency on Aging



Identify & Partner With Stakeholders

Associations

Occupations/Roles

Area Agencies on Aging

Assessment Tools

Training Resources

Stakeholders/Partners

- Agencies on Aging
- Association of Caregivers
- Schools of Aging
- Alzheimer's Association
- Aging Life Care Association
- VA Hospitals
- Assisted Living, Nursing Homes
- Persons With Dementia
- Caregivers
- Adult Day Care
- Social Workers, Psychologists
- Neurologists
- Elder Care Attorneys
- Primary Care Providers
- Faith Communities
- Care Navigators

List of Training Resources

- CDC Alzheimer's Disease Public Health Curriculum
- UCLA Caregiving Training Videos
- Caregiver Action Network Caregiver Toolbox
- Young Onset Dementia Education and Support
- ACL/ACPM Brain Health
- Bright Focus Foundation
- NIA
- Health Services Resource Administration
- Alzheimer's Association

What can caregivers do?

Educate and prepare yourself (diagnosis, progression of disease , challenges encountered)

Organize financial and legal affairs

Organize informal and formal support system

Find community resources

Ask for help

Observe your loved ones carefully

Participate in a support group

Find the strengths in caregiving

Advocacy

What Can Villages Do?

Dementia Friends (www.dfamerica.org)

Dementia Friendly (www.dfamerica.org)

Support Groups

Memory Clubs

Identify, Organize & Partner With Stakeholders

Disseminate Information

Host Training, Information, and Awareness Sessions

Identify Formal Supports

Contact Information

Claudia Thorne, Ph.D., LCSW, LISW

Assistant Professor

Department of Social Work

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

Coppin State University

2500 West North Avenue

Baltimore, MD 21216

4109513533