

DFW Action Team Meeting Notes

Date: Thursday, February 20, 2025 Time: 3:30pm

Location: Worcester Senior Center

Attendees: Jason Reid, Deb Dowd-Foley, Julie McMurray, Kelly Tomaszewicz, Michele Morin, Lynn Alexandrowicz, Nicole Staiti, Patty Hainsworth, Vanessa Ramos, Joy Majweya, Christina Paszuk, Linda Pellegrini, Joanne Clarke, Lauren Gaffney, Karen Anderson Walsh, Lindsay Allen, Kelly Elliott, Bill O'Connor, Kathy Russo, Dr. Jose Robinson, Adam Costello

Attendees welcomed. Brief introductions were made around the room. Introduction to Dr. Joe Robinson, Veterans' Services Officer/Director and Adam Costello, Assistant Director of Veteran's Services.

Veteran's Services the Veterans' Services Division provides support to residents of Worcester who are veterans, currently serving members of the military and their families. Dr. Robinson and Adam Costello, discussed various resources that the department provides including Applications for M.G.L. Chapter 115, Assistance Applying for ChampVA Healthcare for Dependents, Assistance With Discounted Utility Rate Application, Assistance With Healthcare Benefits (VA, Masshealth, Etc.), Assistance With SSI/SSDI Applications, Burial Benefits/Flags & Markers, Certificates of Eligibility for VA Home Loans, Dental Care Reimbursement (Under Chapter 115), Prescription Drug Reimbursement (Under Chapter 115), Referrals to Community, State and Federal Resources. Dr. Robinson also spoke about future projects including a veteran's newsletter and housing for veterans.

Contact Information: Adam Costello, Assistant Director of Veteran's Services, The City of Worcester. 508-799-1041 x31348, 508-799-1018, CostellA@worcesterma.gov, veterans@worcesterma.gov, worcesterma.gov.

The group discussed the upcoming Greater Worcester Alzheimer's Partnership and Dementia Friendly-Worcester Spring Event: **Alzheimer's Affects Everyone: Helping Professionals Reach Out to Their Diverse Communities** on Monday, April 28, 2025, from 1-3 pm at the Worcester Senior Center. This event is for professionals only.

For those interested Patty shared a Dementia Friends session will be offered at the senior center. An announcement will also be made at the April symposium. A session will be planned for May or June.

Conclusion: Everyone was encouraged to bring resources and information to share at upcoming meetings.

Time Adjourned: 4:30pm

Next Meeting: April 17th, 2025, 3:30-4:30pm