

Health Improvement Alliance of St. Joseph County  
Meeting Minutes Thursday, November 18, 2021  
Location: Remote/Zoom

**Find slides from this meeting's presentations, a list of members, upcoming events, and past minutes at [www.healthalliancesjc.org](http://www.healthalliancesjc.org). The zoom meeting was taped and can be accessed by**

- I) Jessica Brookshire of the executive committee greeted the group. She noted the Marketing and Communications committee is responding to member interest by creating an events calendar, which is not quite ready to launch.
- II) Dr. JoAnne Burke of Saint Mary's College and Angel Baginske, director of the Alzheimer's & Dementia Services, Real Services, presented on an innovative "dementia village" day center opening Jan. 3 called the Care Connection Center at Milton Village, 111 Sunnybrook Court, in Roseland (near 933 and Cleveland, and once a Center for Hospice facility.) With capacity to assist 55 Alzheimer and dementia patients, the 12,000-square-foot structure will organize experiences into cultural touchpoints and will include such features as an Irish pub, outdoor gardening, a car mechanic's garage, a kitchen and a hair salon. Volunteers trained in dementia care will staff the experiences; training and education will be available for caregivers, who are welcome to spend time with their loved ones at the center. Various resources (private pay, VA benefits, Medicare waiver, private insurance) covers the fees. Contact Angel at the Alzheimer's & Dementia Services [angel@alzni.org](mailto:angel@alzni.org) if you have questions.

The center is the first in the country to adopt a model popular in the Netherlands and championed in this area by Dr. Burke. She is a member of the Indiana Council on Aging, which is advancing education to make communities more age- and dementia-friendly. As a community-based day facility, Milton Center also responds to a critical change in the way Indiana will support Medicare and Medicaid patients. **Whereas 62 percent of Indiana nursing home beds currently are funded by Medicaid, the state is determined to reduce that amount to 25 percent of beds. The other 75 percent will be directed to home or community**

**services. This “deinstitutionalization” of services to the elderly is targeted for 2024, even as the number of seniors grows rapidly.**

- III) Steve Chupp of Honoring Choices--Northcentral Indiana, which is housed at the Center for Hospice Care, noted that the organization offers advanced care planning and instruction, including filling out advanced directives. He can be contacted about this free service or presentations at [chupps@hci-nc.org](mailto:chupps@hci-nc.org).
- IV) Sandi Pontius, tobacco education coordinator for Saint Joseph Health System, observed the Great American Smoke Out anniversary (Nov.18) by noting that this more than 40-year-old national event has inspired a change in how the nation views cigarettes. But 19 percent of Hoosiers still smoke. A Courage to Quit smoking cessation program begins in January. Call Pontius at 574-335-4699. Further information is available at 1-800-QuitNow.
- V) Carey Gaudern, of Beacon Health’s Community Impact Services, is working on Trauma Informed Care research with the University of Notre Dame. She can be contacted at [Cgaudern@beaconhealthsystem.org](mailto:Cgaudern@beaconhealthsystem.org) for information on the project. Brian Mounts, executive director of community organization for AARC, noted that AARC has received a grant for a trauma-informed community coordinator who will work with schools to identify students affected by trauma.

The next meeting of the Alliance will be 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022.