

The Dementia Care and Cure Initiative (DCCI) was introduced by Florida Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) Secretary in August 2015. According to the Alzheimer’s Association, Florida has the **second highest** incidence rate of Alzheimer’s Disease in the nation – only behind California. There are approximately **580,000** individuals currently living with Alzheimer’s Disease in Florida. By **2025**, it is estimated **720,000** individuals will be living with Alzheimer’s disease in Florida.



Florida seeks to lead the nation in response to the increasing incidence of dementia by implementing a statewide effort to become more dementia caring-acting to support those diagnosed with dementia, their families, and their caregivers-bettering communities and the state overall. The promotion of compassionate awareness for Floridians affected by dementia through DCCI is one of Governor Ron DeSantis’ assigned goals for DOEA.

**TASK FORCES**

Each DCCI is represented by a voluntary Task Force. Membership is open to anyone who wishes to assist

 in the dedication of their community to become Dementia Caring. Each Task Force is led by “pillars”. The

 “pillars” are the area’s Memory Disorder Clinic Coordinator and the Area Agency on Aging Director of

 Outreach. The Task Force is responsible for initiating contacts, assisting in the marketing and outreach of

 the initiative and providing awareness presentations in their community. Task Force members can also

 attend outreach events to promote DCCI and local resources, provide advocacy by working with local

 elected officials, funders, and other civic organizations, or work to create and inventory of existing

 resources in the community and assess the availability and accessibility of them. Task Force members find

 the initiative’s activities flow seamlessly with their existing work duties or outside community activities as

 DCCI can act as a supplement to the awareness, assistance, and advocacy duties they are already engaged

 in. The Department of Elder Affairs aids and supports each community and assists in the state-wide

 recognition of DCCI.



 The above image demonstrates the various sectors of the community where the mission and goals of DCCI can be shared. Awareness presentations provided to these different entities aim to share knowledge of dementia including the signs and symptoms; safe, respectful, and effective communication techniques to use with individuals living with dementia; and, an overview of the community resources that support individuals affected by the disease, including caregivers. DCCI aims to create aware and sensitive communities where individuals with dementia, their families, and their caregivers can access supportive services while also maintaining their active participation in their community.