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AMDA Co-Convenes 2nd Dementia Thought Leaders Invitational Summit

Columbia, MD – Last week, AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine (AMDA), CCAL – Advancing Person-Centered Living, Planetree, and The Eden Alternative, all founders of the Dementia Action Alliance, co-convened the 2nd Dementia Thought Leaders Invitational Summit in Washington, DC. The Alliance, a national initiative to make person-centered dementia care the only acceptable norm for dementia care in our country, had as its purpose to address and form consensus recommendations on what is needed to effect such change. AMDA Past President Jonathan Evans, MD, MPH, CMD, and Executive Director Christopher Laxton, CAE, both attended and spoke at the summit.

Participants included a broad spectrum of practitioners, persons living with dementia, advocates, caregivers, researchers, academicians, and policymakers. The day-long meeting was used to create an initial framework of strategies to optimize the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of people living with dementia, as well as their caregivers. Participants also strategized ways to make person-centered dementia care of consistently high quality across settings. Dr. Evans told the group, “It’s not enough for us to say ‘fix it.’ We need to specify what we want fixed, how to fix it, and how we will determine if it’s been fixed.”

Summit participants agreed that the overarching goal was to improve person-centered dementia care in the US by helping people live fully with dementia. To achieve this, five strategies were developed:

1. Develop and implement a mobilizing and operating infrastructure;
2. Coalesce, connect, and activate people and other resources to build capacity;
3. Educate and increase awareness among the diverse dementia care stakeholders;
4. Optimize health and well-being; and
5. Foster health equity by creating access to and utilization of dementia care resources and services.

Chair of CCAL Jackie Pinkowitz, MEd, commented, “This work must go on as an open, evolving process so that multiple perspectives continue to be exchanged. We hope to have the expertise and insights of AMDA members, such as physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants, included in the workgroups that are forming, to effectively translate these recommendations into national policy and practice.”

AMDA’s participation in the Dementia Care Alliance is just one of many efforts AMDA is involved in to improve the quality of care provided to individuals living with dementia. For more information, click here.

AMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine is the national professional association of medical directors, attending physicians, and other professionals practicing post-acute and long-term care medicine and committed to the continuous improvement of patient care. AMDA provides education, advocacy, information, and professional development to enable its members to deliver quality post-acute and long-term care.

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