

WVLS Staff 2024 WAPL Conference Report

Name: Kris Adams Wendt

1. What was the title of a session you attended?

Understanding Dementia

St. Croix Hospice staff will provide an overview of dementia-related disorders, including medical complications, behavioral changes, and disease progression. ADRC will offer insight into better communication and support between library staff, caregivers and those experiencing the disease. Debbie Bird from the Portage Public Library will offer insight into how this information is relevant to library staff and what it means to be dementia-friendly. Resources will be discussed. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions.

- **What two things are you taking away that you heard or do you think are most important?**

1. It's important to be "in the moment" with dementia patients as cognitive function changes and progresses.
2. General guidelines: listen and reassure, stay calm and smile, don't argue, reorient, redirect.

Was also surprised to learn there was such a thing as "virtual dementia simulation training" for caregivers and potentially for library staff members. Contact nearest [Wisconsin regional Aging and Disability Resource Centers \(ARDC\)](#) for more information. There are several [YouTube videos](#) showing what the experience is like.

- **Were there any key websites the presenter shared or resources that people should check out?**

Will attach copies of the handouts.

- **What was the audience reaction to this session? What kinds of feedback was given?**

Audience was engaged. Personal family as well as patron stories were shared.

2. What did you enjoy most about the conference?

The keynote by author Jennifer Chiaverini.

Understanding Dementia Common Behaviors

Behavior: Aggression/Agitation

Potential Causes:

- Confusion, disorientation, or difficulty with a task
- Pain or other internet precipitating factors
- Fear

Intervention(s):

- Listen and reassure
- Stay calm and smile
- Don't argue
- Reorient
- Redirect

Behavior: Confusion and repetition

Potential Causes:

- The environment
- Poor communication
- An unexpected change

Intervention(s):

- Provide structure
- Use short sentences or yes/no questions

Behavior: Hallucinations, delusions, and paranoia

Potential Causes:

- Sight or hearing problems
- Illnesses (such as infection, fever, migraine, etc.)
- Medications

Intervention(s):

- Distractions
- Change the environment
- Enter their reality, if appropriate

Communicating with Dementia Patients

Think about how you are presenting yourself and pay attention to your approach.

- Approach slowly
- Make eye contact
- Use a calm tone
- Ask permissions; Do not demand
- Pay attention to body language
- Use simple language
- Communicate in a location free of distractions
- Allow time to respond

Other Strategies to Utilize

- The physical environment
 - Eliminate clutter and background noise
 - Bright/even lighting
 - Use signs to help with navigation
 - Contrasting colors
 - Monitor temperature for personal comfort
 - Establish the appropriate level of stimulation
- Provide specialized areas that are easily identified or special programs
- Materials on dementia for caregivers

CPI Crisis Development Model: Best Ability to Function

DEMENTIA SEVERITY/ALLEN LEVEL/ MDS LEVEL	DEVELOPMENTAL AGE COMPARISON	CHARACTERISTICS	PRIMARY REMAINING ABILITIES	LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE NEEDED TO FACILITATE BEST ABILITY TO FUNCTION (BATF)
End Stage 1-Automatic Actions Total Dependence	1-12 months	Bedbound, mute, requires total care, can feel and express love and relationships.	Minimal responses Swallow Vocalize Move limbs through partial ROM	Constant verbal, visual, and tactile cues (86-100% cognitive assistance)
Late Stage 2-Postural Actions Extensive Assistance	12-18 months	Stands, sits, walks with assistance. Communicates needs through gestures, words in short sentences.	Gross motor movements Mobility: sit, stand, walk unsteadily Simple communication Possible self feeding/drinking	Constant verbal, visual, and tactile cues (71-85% cognitive assistance)
Middle Stage 3-Manual Actions Limited Assistance	18 months-3 years	Moves self/objects in ways that present safety risks, difficulty expressing needs through words	Uses hands to pick up objects Hand-eye coordination Follows one-step directions with cueing	Constant verbal, visual, and tactile cues (46-70% cognitive assistance)
Early Stage 4-Goal-Directed Activity Supervision	4-10 or 12 years	Benefits from routine and structure, has trouble with change, needs cognitive assistance with new/complex tasks, greater risk of injury	Goal-directed in simpler, familiar activities Follows routines Some new learning Simple problem solving	Intermittent verbal cues, may be independent if the task is very familiar or very simple (26-45% cognitive assistance)
Mild Cognitive Impairment 5-Independent Learning Activities Supervision-independent	Teens to early 20's	Independent to supervision depending on familiarity and complexity of task	Follows simple instructions Employable; may not be organized or efficient May drive and perform child/adult care tasks	Independent (0% cognitive assistance)
None 6-Planned Activities independent	25+ years	Independent		Independent (0% cognitive assistance)

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Name: Brenda Walenton

1. What was the title of a session you attended?

Analyzing Your Collection: Tools to Diversify & Maintain Your Children's Collection

- **What two things are you taking away that you heard, or do you think are most important?**

I primarily went to this session to support a co-worker (Kristie was a presenter) but found it very interesting to hear what it takes to maintain a collection. I thought it was just about purchasing the newest books – didn't realize all the other things that need to be considered. I now realize how important it is to know what is in your collection and if it provides books for all patrons.

- **Were there any key websites the presenter shared or resources that people should check out?**

Yes, a list of tools and resources was provided to help evaluate the books in your collection and websites that will help you choose books that your collection might be missing

- **What was the audience reaction to this session? What kinds of feedback was given?**

There were various questions that were asked, and the participants seemed appreciative of the resources that were provided.

2. What did you enjoy most about the conference?

I enjoyed meeting library directors that I had only spoken to on the phone (Brandon from Withee), spending time with Board members (Tom and Judy) and getting to chat with other member library staff as well as staff from other systems. This was the first time I didn't stay overnight and I missed the extra networking time on Wednesday and Thursday evening.

WVLS Staff 2024 WAPL Conference Report

Name: Kristie Hauer

1. What was the title of a session you attended?

What is Science-Based Reading and Why Should Wisconsin Public Libraries Care?

- **What two things are you taking away that you heard or do you think are most important?**

This session explained Wisconsin Act 20 that was passed in 2023. While Act 20 focuses on schools, it is helpful for librarians to understand it and anticipate how the public library can support schools and school families.

Science-based early literacy instruction consists of phonological awareness, phonemic awareness, phonics, building background knowledge, oral language development, vocabulary building, instruction in writing, instruction in comprehension, and reading fluency.

- **Were there any key websites the presenter shared or resources that people should check out?**

Two valuable collection development tools were shared: [TeachingBooks](#) and [CCBC Recommended Book Search](#) Tool (Cooperative Children's Book Center).

- **What was the audience reaction to this session? What kinds of feedback was given?**

During the presentation, the audience responded positively to the information presented, although some felt slightly overwhelmed by the amount of information. Many attendees expressed a desire for more concrete examples of how public libraries can support Act 20. Additionally, there was a discussion about the importance of making materials in the library's online catalog searchable with phrasing used in Act 20 (such as decodable text or predictable text) for the convenience of both library staff and patrons in finding relevant resources.

2. What did you enjoy most about the conference?

Attending the keynote speakers and authors at events is always a highlight for me, but what I appreciate even more are the informal networking opportunities during breaks. As a newcomer to WVLS, these breaks gave me the chance to meet many member library staff in person and learn more about them and their libraries. It was a great opportunity to build relationships and expand my knowledge of the library community.