

Dementia Friendly Storey County

For Fiscal Year 2026–2027

DRAFT #3, May 14th, 2026 of Proposed Initial Goals

Dementia-Friendly Storey County Mission:

Dementia-Friendly Storey County is a community-driven effort led by Health and Community Services, in partnership with local organizations, first responders, community members, and individuals living with dementia and their care partners.

Together, we are working to better understand the needs of older adults in our community and to create a place where everyone feels supported, included, and valued.

By listening, learning, and working side-by-side, we develop practical strategies that promote healthy aging and improve daily life. Our goal is to make Storey County a safe, welcoming, and supportive community for people living with dementia and for those who care for them.

Initial Proposed Goals

Goal 1: Establish a formal County Dementia Friendly Coalition with representatives from:

- County leadership
- Law enforcement/911/dispatch
- Fire/EMS
- Behavioral health (Community Health Worker's)
- Senior services
- Community members
- Business owners
- Those living with Dementia and/or their Caregivers

Goal 2: Brain Health Education and Community Learning Initiatives

Aligned with Dementia Friendly Nevada Aspiration #1 “Provide Innovative Brain Health and Dementia Education”, the group will focus on annual class offerings from UNR Cooperative Extension, Carson-Tahoe Health, Renown, and other groups dedicated to Brain Health and Dementia Education. These offerings will bring information to light for those community members who wish to make more informed decisions about their health.

New information for the May 14th, 2026, Meeting regarding Goal 2:

Through the University of Nevada Extension program, we have upcoming Nutrition classes focused on Brain health. We are also in talks with Carson-Tahoe Regional Medical Center to have additional Brain Health / Nutrition / Support classes at the Senior Center in Virginia City beginning in July 2026. Progress on this will be reported at future meetings.

Goal 3: Expanding Access to Dementia Support Services

Aligned with Dementia Friendly Nevada Aspiration #2 “Increase Awareness of and Access to Supportive Services”, the group will focus on establishing and offering consistent, ongoing programming, such as individual counseling; creating a support group; promote easy-to-find and quick links to resources; expanded outreach and public awareness.

New Information for the May 14th, 2026, meeting:

We will work on developing a support group for those living with Dementia and their care partners when we have a sufficient number of those seeking this type of group and have determined a monthly date, time, and location. While we make this effort, we offer the following: Dustin Cerny, our Community Health Worker, is available **by appointment** to meet with anyone who needs mental and emotional support to care for their loved one.

Goal 4: Building Partnerships for Dementia Safety and Support

Develop a sustainable network of cross-sector partners to improve Dementia awareness, services access, and crisis response. By working with Sheriff's Office “Volunteers In Policing (VIP)” team, the Health & Community Services “Senior Outreach Services (SOS)” Volunteer Program and, other partner agencies, we will seek to integrate the **voluntary** “Silver CARE Program” to develop a dementia safety registry between Storey County Health and Community Services, the Sheriff's Department, Dispatch, Fire Protection District, Emergency Management, and partner agencies.

New information for the May 14th, 2026, meeting:

While the Sheriff's Office VIPs are already conducting in-home visits to our vulnerable population, we will actively seek additional volunteers for the SOS program so that people have reliable in-home ‘visiting friends’ in an effort to ‘beat isolation’. This new form for the Silver CARE program is a work in progress through our Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) meetings. We will be finalizing the Silver CARE Program form at our meeting on May 20th and this will be discussed further at the June 11th, 2026, Dementia-Friendly Storey County meeting.

Goal 5: “C” Street Rest and Respite Areas

Create designated quiet, safe spaces within the community along the busy C Street corridor, with specific locations to be determined. These spaces would offer a calm environment away from street noise and activity, providing individuals with a place to sit, rest, and regroup.

Thoughtful design elements such as comfortable seating, clear signage, and easy accessibility would help ensure these areas are welcoming and easy to identify for those who may need them.

This concept is well suited to the tourism-focused atmosphere of Virginia City, ensuring that both residents and visitors have access to inclusive, supportive environments.