

Massachusetts Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Service Grant Advisory Committee

October 18, 2018

CADER Mission Statement

The Center for Aging and Disability Education and Research (CADER) is dedicated to strengthening the workforce that provides health and long-term supports and services to older adults and people with disabilities.

Project Overview

- Boston University's Center for Aging and Disability Education and Research (CADER), in partnership with the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA), created and delivered an online course on ***Alzheimer's Disease & Other Dementias*** to aging providers across Massachusetts.
- Learners who completed all online coursework earned 4 CEUs and a Certificate of Completion from Boston University's Center for Aging and Disability Education and Research.

Evaluation Components

- Participant Profile
- Pre and Post Competency Assessment
- Course Quiz
- Course Evaluation and Learner Feedback
- 6-month Follow-up Survey

Alzheimer's Training Participants

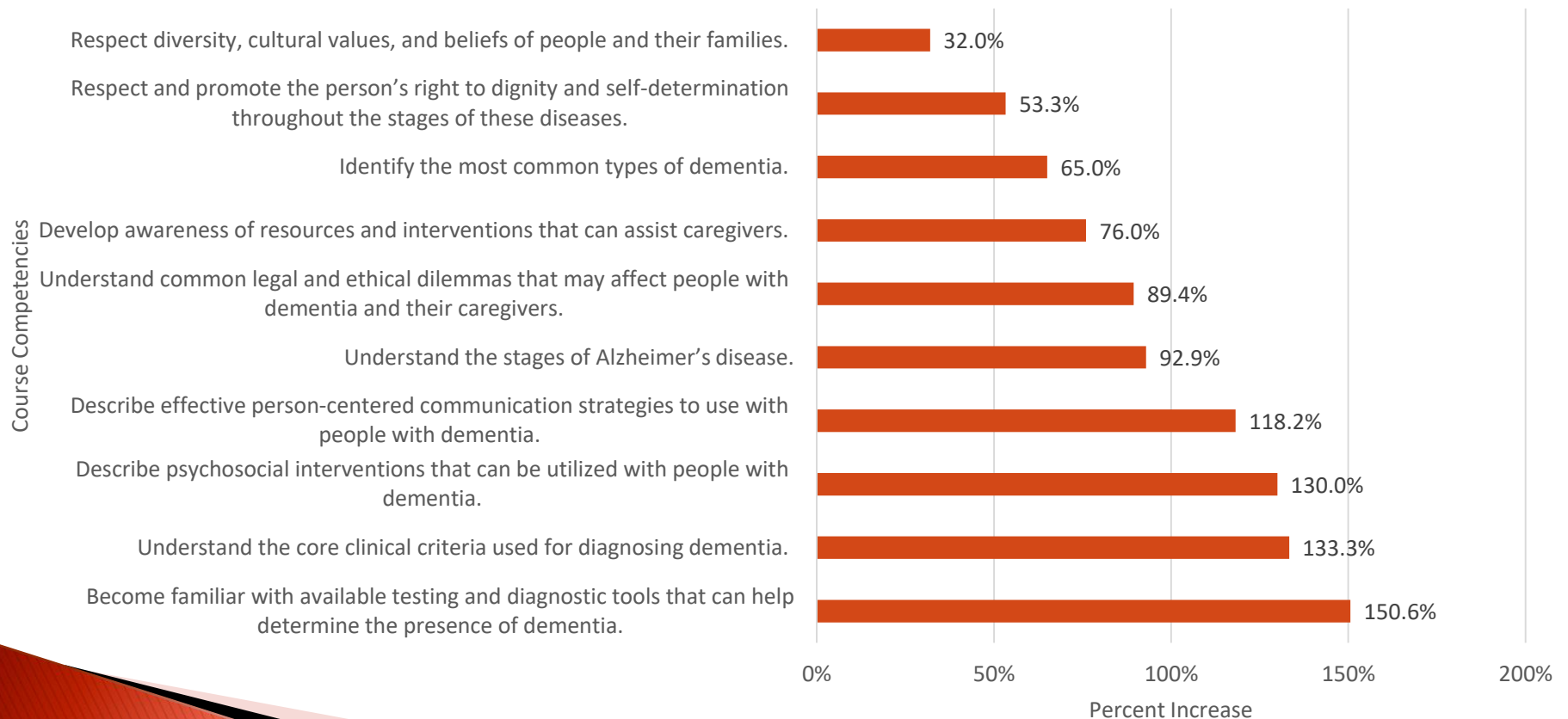
- 195 enrolled in the program; 191 completed
- 96% completion rate
- Average Age: 47
- Female: 91%; White: 80%; African American/Black: 4%; Hispanic/Latino: 11%; Asian: 2.59%; and Other: 5%
- 79% have a Bachelor's degree or higher
- Work Setting: AAA: 59%; Other: 15%; ADRCs: 8%; ILC: 7%; COAs: 6%

Results: Pre-Post Competencies

- Increases in the mean scores from pre-test to post-test were statistically significant across all of the ten learning competencies ($p < .05$)
- Increases ranged from 32.0% to 150.6%

Results: Pre-Post Competencies

Competency Increases



Course Evaluations

- 98% agreed or strongly agreed the training ***expanded their knowledge and understanding in the topic area***
- 97% agreed or strongly agreed the training would ***help them apply practice skills in the topic area***
- 97% agreed or strongly agreed the training will ***help them in their work with older adults and/or with people with disabilities***

6-Month Follow-Up

- The follow-up survey included questions related to the following:
 - participants' knowledge and abilities
 - training satisfaction/dissatisfaction
 - training learning competencies
 - further training needs
- 41% completion rate

6-Month Follow-Up: Knowledge and Abilities

- 75% felt that the online training expanded their knowledge of dementia either “a lot” or “to a great extent”
- 72% felt that the training improved their confidence in working with caregivers of people with dementia either “a lot” or “to a great extent”
- More than half (63%) felt that the training taught them what to do differently when caring for people with dementia either “a lot” or “to a great extent”

6-Month Follow-Up: Knowledge and Abilities

- 71% felt that the online training increased their understanding of how to address the behaviors related to dementia either “a lot” or “to a great extent”
- 87% believe that their agency expects them to use the training in their work
- 75% felt that the online training was either “very useful” or “extremely useful” to their job

6-Month Follow-Up: Training Satisfaction/Dissatisfaction

- 96% were either “very satisfied” or “extremely satisfied” with the online training
- The most common response was: ***they liked the self-paced online format of the training, including the design that divided the training into manageable segments, and included many interactive elements and videos***

6-Month Follow-Up: Competencies

- Increases in the mean scores from pre-test to post-test were statistically significant across all of the learning competencies and these scores remained statistically significant when training participants completed the follow-up survey at six months post training ($p < .05$)

6-Month Follow-Up: Future Training Needs

- 57% were “very interested” in additional online dementia training
- 64% were NOT “very interested” in additional in-person dementia training
- The majority of training participants (78%) were “very interested” in a list of online resources that provide helpful information on dementia

Quotes from Training Participants

“This was an excellent, adult friendly course. The information was not overwhelming, easy to follow, and clear. This is a wonderful way for working adults to learn and put into practice the material, due to its practicality. Thank you for offering this course. I believe this should be presented to HHA, caregivers, family members, church priests, etc. This is a wonderful tool with rich context and resources. The videos we amazing as well. Thank you.”

“I have taken various trainings and workshops related to Alzheimer's disease but this by far was the best course I have taken. I feel very confident that I now know more about this disease and understand what it feels like to care for someone with this and also what it feels like to have the disease and how it progresses.”

Quotes from Training Participants

“I am so grateful to have been given the opportunity to take this course. The course is full, overflowing with information, statistics, scenarios; very comprehensive. I know I will be more effective in my daily work with this powerful information. I am seriously considering changing my career focus to helping those who suffer with Alzheimer's disease and their families. I enjoyed learning about the person centered care approach and ways of communicating when verbal ability has been lost. Again, I am grateful and look forward to sharing and using my new found knowledge. Thank you, thank you.”

Overall Summary

- Increases in the mean scores from pre-test to post-test were statistically significant across all of the ten learning competencies ($p < .05$) and remained so at 6-month follow-up
- 95% agreed or strongly agreed that the course learning objectives were met
- 98% agreed or strongly agreed they would recommend this course to their colleagues
- 97% agreed or strongly agreed the information in this course was effectively presented
- In sum, the online course was well received by participants and helped tremendously in building their knowledge and skills in key content areas related to Alzheimer's Disease and other dementias

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