

Bree Collaborative | Alzheimer's and Other Dementias Revision
January 26th, 2026 | 2:30-4PM PST
Hybrid

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kris Rhoads, PhD, UW (chair)	Cathy Cooper, MSW, LICSW, MultiCare
Jamie Tueteberg, MS, HCA	LuPita Guitierrez-Parker
Barak Gaster, MD, UW	Vicki McNealley, PhD, MN, RN, Home Care
Katina Rue, DO, FAAFP, FACOFP, Team Health	Association
Carla Ainsworth, MD, KP	Lynne Korte, MPH, DSHS
Allyson Schrier	Nancy Isenberg, MD, MPH, Swedish
Carroll Haymon, MD, Haymon Consulting	Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe, PhD, WSU
Rodney Anderson, MD, FCN	Martin Levine, MD, MBA, Optum
Cathy McCaul, AARP	Michelle Graham, MD, MME, FAAFP, UHC
Laura Cepoi, MA, Olympic AAA	

STAFF AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Beth Bojkov, MPH, RN, Bree Collaborative
Emily Nudelman, DNP, RN, Bree Collaborative
Karie Nicholas, MA, GDip, Bree Collaborative

DISCUSS: BREE BACKGROUND AND WORKGROUP PROCESS

Beth introduced the Bree and the workgroup process. The Bree Collaborative is a program of the Foundation for Health Care Quality. The Bree was established by the state legislature in 2011 in response to health care services with high variation and utilization that do not produce better outcomes. Each year, Bree members (drawn from public and private healthcare stakeholders) choose three to four topics to develop recommendations. Revising the Alzheimer's and Other Dementias Report is one of three topics for 2026.

The workgroup will meet monthly throughout 2026 to define the purpose and scope, identify focus areas, review existing guidelines and published evidence, and draft evidence-informed report and guidelines. The report will include recommendations for specific health care stakeholders and will be sent to the WA Health Care Authority. The workgroup must follow Open Public Meetings Act regulations. This includes workgroup member training and conflict of interest disclosure. Following the presentation, Beth opened the floor for comments, but there were no questions.

PRESENT& DISCUSS: WORKGROUP MEMBERS AND SCOPE

Dr. Kris Rhoads invited the rest of the workgroup members to provide brief introductions and then opened the brainstorming conversation with a discussion on additional stakeholders to consider inviting to participate or speak:

- Some additional stakeholders to consider for participation or inviting to speak, including:
 - Tribal health representatives
 - Employer perspective
 - WA state QIO for CMS
 - GUIDE model providers
 - Veterans Administration
 - Kadlec Hospital

PRESENT & DISCUSS: TOPIC OVERVIEW

Kris then transitioned the meeting to provide an overview of the topic and potential scope.

- **Dementia ECHO Program:**
 - Launched in June 2020
 - 313 Unduplicated Providers
 - 127 Unduplicated Clinics
 - Over 250 Zip Codes
 - 100% reported Project ECHO Dementia improved quality of care
 - 64% reported changes by others within their organization
 - Echo program could be a good pathway for dissemination of our work together today
- **State Dementia Action Plan:**
 - Recently underwent a revision, there are goals across many sectors but Goal 5 is most relevant to our work:
 - Goal 5: Promote risk reduction and evidence-based health care for people at risk of or living with cognitive impairment and dementia
 - A: promote risk reduction and prevention of dementia
 - B: promote early detection, diagnosis and treatment
 - C: identify and disseminate evidence-based dementia care models and practices that are available throughout the state
 - D: build dementia-capable workforce across the care continuum
 - E: Explore and support policies that promote the capacity of primary care providers and staff to adequately assess, diagnose, counsel and treat persons living with cognitive decline and/or dementia
 - F: Increase awareness of challenges associated with dementia and co-occurring conditions
 - G: Reduce preventable emergency department visits, hospitalizations and readmissions
 - H: Improve understanding of and response to challenging and/or complex behaviors
 - I: Increase primary care workforce awareness of the critical role of care partners and caregivers
 - J: Promote the expansion of Project ECHO Dementia
- **Lancet 2024: Dementia Prevention, Intervention and Care, Livingston et. Al,**
 - # of potentially modifiable factors and prevention of cases continues to increase
 - Don't think we spent as much time as we could have dialing into this

PRESENT & DISCUSS: CHARTER & ROSTER

Kris then transitioned to reviewing the charter and roster. The following changes were made to the charter's purpose (changes/additions are **in red**)

Purpose

- Update report with recent evidence on **risk reduction across the life span**, biomarker testing, **nonpharmacological and new drug therapies** for Alzheimer's and dementias

- Develop an implementation plan for **age-friendly health systems to improve cognitive impairment care through team-based approaches and clarify roles across healthcare services and specialties**
- Align payor coverage for **early detection and intervention, such as through team-based care**
- Standardize quality measures for Alzheimer's and dementias
- **Identify ways to expand service access in underserved areas** and enhance long-term support for patients, families, and caregivers

PUBLIC COMMENT AND GOOD OF THE ORDER

Kris invited final comments or public comments, then thanked all for attending. At the next workgroup meeting, the team will review comments made from the Bree member meeting on January 28th and continue the brainstorming discussion around potential focus areas for the report. The workgroup's next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 9th from 2:30-4PM.