The Purpose of the Yellow Springs Dementia Friendly Community Advisory Committee is to provide guidance and support related to the Dementia Friendly Yellow Springs Project. Due to the nature of this project, issues and experiences connected to community members will be discussed and may include personal and private information. Because of this, Advisory Committee members are to be guided by the following principals and are encouraged to seek advice and direction from the Yellow Springs Senior Center Director or her designees regarding matters that require clarification.

1) To allow for meaningful Advisory Committee discussions related to individual situations and trainings for community partners, personal stories and information shared are to be held in the strictest confidence. Even if the individual sharing, during or outside the meeting, is the owner of the information, discussions will remain confidential.

2) Individuals with dementia and their caregivers have a right to privacy and confidentiality.
   a) Committee members shall not seek inappropriate information from individuals with dementia or their caregivers
   b) Personal information shall not be shared outside of the Committee

3) All discussions during Advisory Committee meetings and outside but related to the Advisory Committee and the Yellow Springs Dementia Friendly project will be non-judgmental in nature.

4) The Advisory Committee is responsible for affirming the dignity and worth of all those directly and indirectly connected to this project.

December 2017
Dementia Friendly Yellow Springs
Confidentiality and Boundaries

Why is confidentiality important?

Not everyone with dementia or caring for someone with dementia wants to share their story, have others share it for them or have others talking about them.

Without expressed consent, we have no right to share someone’s story.

If our information comes from a third party, it is rumor and hearsay and potentially full of embellishments and half-truths.

Once you share a story or piece of information, it cannot be taken back. Additionally, it becomes easier to share the next story and the story after that.

Confidentiality is about trust and having the trust of the community is paramount to the success of creating a dementia friendly community.

The stories of our friends and neighbors are important to a dementia friendly Yellow Springs, so how do we discuss situations and stories without crossing inappropriate boundaries?

As difficult as it may be, the best strategy is to use pseudonyms instead of names and initials when talking about an experience/situation. In addition, we should only share descriptors and details that are necessary to the message we are trying to get across and not those that might point out who the individual/family is.

For example, “Mrs. S took her parent who appears to have some type of dementia to the store. While they were inside, her parent wandered off and was found by a patient cashier who helped reconnect the parent with Mrs. S”.

If “Betty” told you it is okay to share something about her dementia experience with the Committee, this should be the start of your sharing. And in this situation, whatever is shared should still be kept within the Advisory Committee.

Before we share, we should always ask ourselves if there will be a benefit to the work of the Committee. If the answer is yes, the next question is will my sharing cause any harm?