



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

October 20, 2022

GENERAL MEMORANDUM NO. 194 – 22

To: Secretary of Samoan Affairs, CEOs, President and Executive Directors of Authorities, Directors, Agency and Office Heads

From: Governor of American Samoa

Subject: Dementia-Friendly Movement in American Samoa

It is estimated that over 55 million people worldwide are living with dementia. The number of people affected is set to rise to 139 million by 2050, with the greatest increases in low- and middle-income countries. Dementia is a term used to describe different brain disorders that affect memory, thinking, behavior and emotion, and knows no social, economic, or ethnic boundaries. A new case of dementia arises somewhere in the world every 3 seconds.¹ Dementia is more common in people over the age of 65, but in some cases, it can also affect people in their 30s, 40s, or 50s. And, since the detailed population tables for the 2020 Census are not yet available, the 2010 Census data shows that over 40% of people in American Samoa fall within that age range (30 to over 65 years).²

By creating a Dementia-Friendly American Samoa, we will increase the number of people who are more informed, sensitive, engaging, and inclusive using proven strategies and resources available through the Dementia-Friendly America Network. Additionally, an integral part of this work is identifying departments and organizations that represent key cross-sectors across our Territory who will champion this effort. Therefore, pursuant to my authority under A.S.C.A. §§ 4.0111 and 4.0302, the Dementia-Friendly American Samoa Action Team is established. The Chairperson shall be the First Lady of American Samoa and will consist of at least one representative from each of the following departments or organizations, specifically those who work with individuals with dementia or who may be at risk of developing dementia:

1. Territorial Administration on Aging, which is the equivalent of an Area Agency on Aging for American Samoa;
2. LBJ Tropical Medical Center (Physician Providing Geriatric Care);
3. Department of Health;
4. Hope House;

¹ <https://www.alzint.org/about/dementia-facts-figures/>

² U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census of American Samoa.

5. Agency for Better Living Endeavors (A.B.L.E.);
6. Department of Human and Social Services;
7. Nursing Department of the American Samoa Community College (Representative of Caregiver's Training).

This memorandum supersedes any conflicting portion of any other General Memorandum or Policy on this subject.



LEMANU P. S. MAUGA
Governor