



# Welcome to the Positive Approaches to Dementia Care ECHO

January through June 2025

# Disclosure

This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number U1QHP53034, Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program, for \$1,001,457. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by, HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.

# Schedule

- [Session 1 – Dementia: What's Retained?](#)
- Session 2 – What is a Positive Approach to Care?
- Session 3 – Sensory Changes
- Session 4 – Communicating Effectively
- Session 5 – Personal Care
- Session 6 - TBD

# Dementia: What's Retained, Not Just What's Lost

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**As brain cells die the brain shrinks in size**

# Let's see what changes inside:



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WHICH  
ONE?



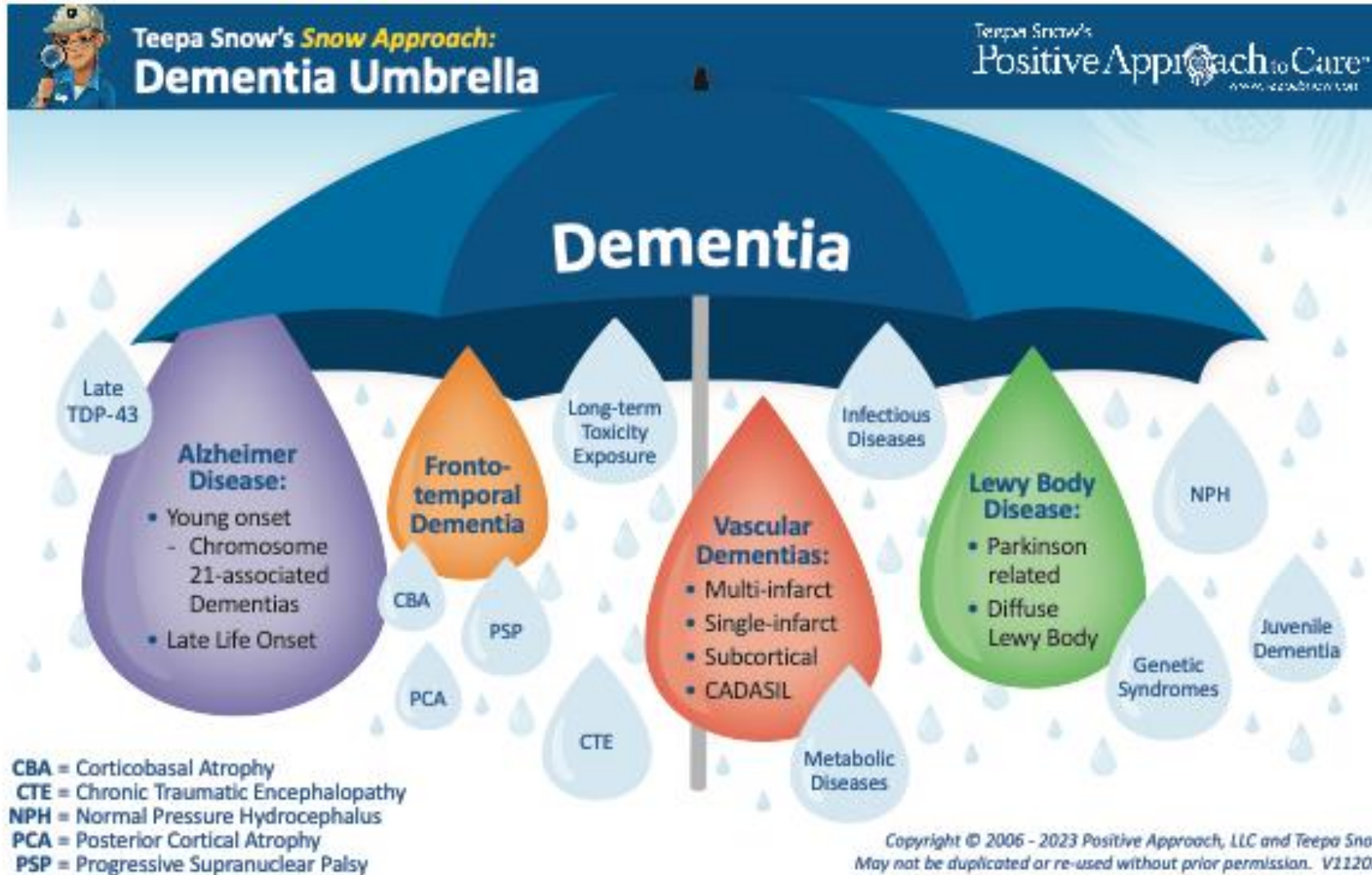
**Joanna  
Fix, PhD**

**Br John-Richard  
Pagan, MA-MFT, CG**





# A better understanding of the difference between dementia and Alzheimer...



# Four Truths About Dementia:

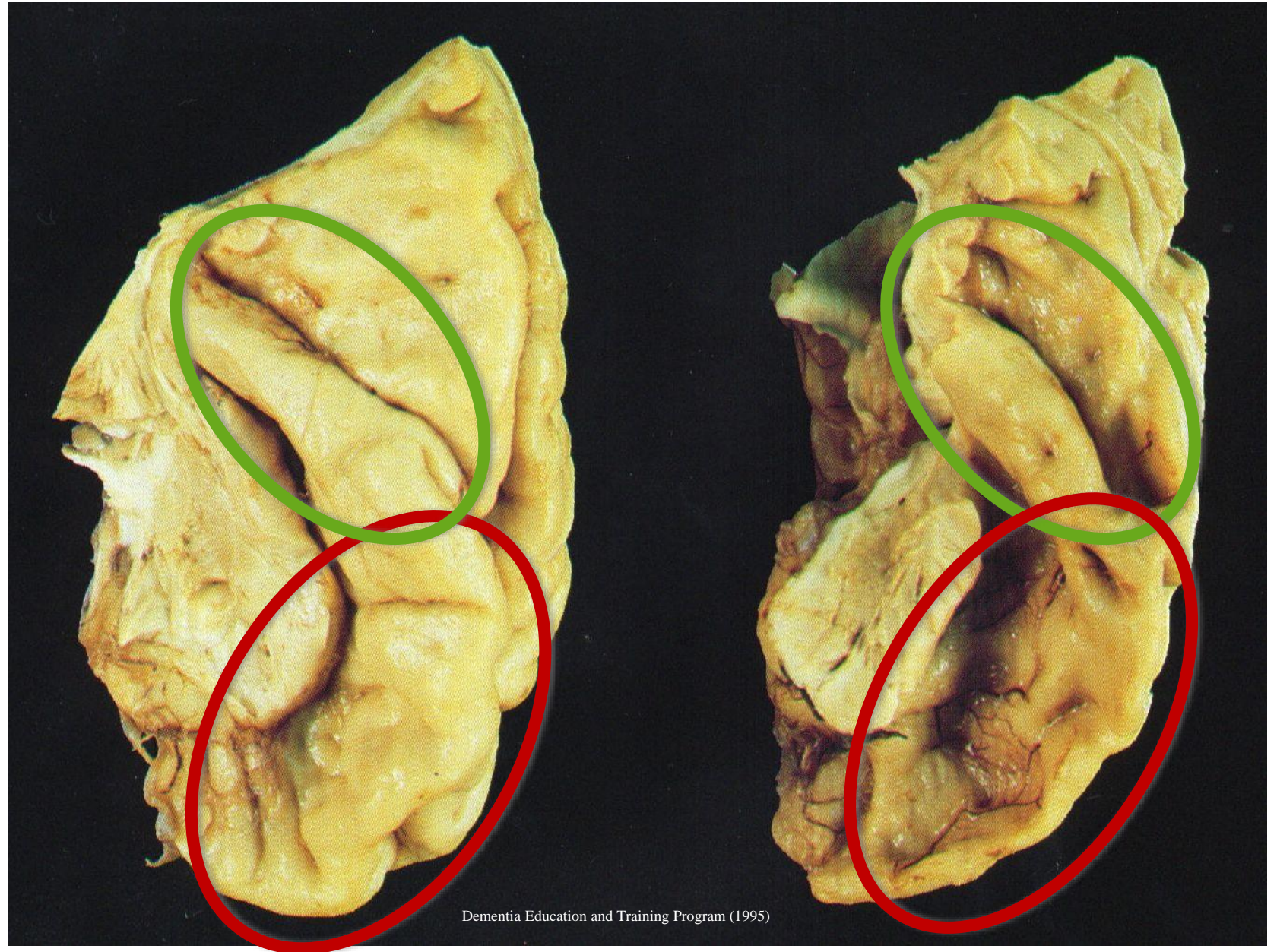
- 1. At least 2 parts of the brain are dying- one related to memory and another part**
- 2. It is chronic – can't be fixed**
- 3. It is progressive – it gets worse**
- 4. It is terminal – it will kill, eventually**

# Four More Truths About Dementia:

1. Things do not work the way they *used to* – abilities are changing
2. This is a *new normal* – can't go back to before
3. It is not going to *stabilize* and yet change can be dealt with – with support
4. Getting *support* that works is essential as things continue to change

**Hearing Sound  
Unchanged**

**BIG Language  
CHANGE**



## Limit Words – Keep it Straight Forward!

Visual matched WITH verbal using **Positive Action Starters**:

- **First, Reflect:** matched intensity with sincerity (if needed).
- **Short & Simple:** *It's about time for...* tap your watch/wrist.  
*Or Here's your socks.* Hold up sock.
- **Step by Step:** *Let's go this way.* Point.
- **Choice:** *Coffee or tea?* Raise coffee cup then tea bag.
- **Help:** *I could use your help.* Implied compliment on skill.
- **Try:** *Let's just try.* Pointing to the exercise band.

Acknowledge their response/reaction.... **And then WAIT!!!**

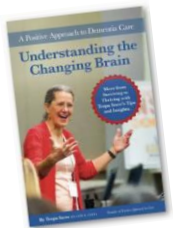
# Scan for Handouts

Or [www.teepasnow.com/presentations](http://www.teepasnow.com/presentations)



**Watch:** Teepa Snow on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@teepasnowvideos>



**Read:** Understanding the Changing Brain

<https://shop.teepasnow.com/product/understanding-the-changing-brain/>



**Learn:** Accepting the Challenge Streaming Video

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