Jewish Family Services is excited to announce the launch of our newest program for older adults, JFS COMPASS, which will provide dementia-specific medical care for individuals with dementia and critical caregiver support – including education and training – to guide family members and caregivers through their journey.

Our consultative medical-social approach to memory care is personalized; every family is unique and every person with cognitive impairment, like dementia, experiences it differently. Our interdisciplinary team of geriatric professionals will work with each family as they face the challenges of caring for a loved one, understanding and honoring your individual values and preferences, and addressing new concerns and issues as they arise throughout the course of the disease.

Upon referral from your Primary Care Physician, the JFS COMPASS Team will provide comprehensive assessment, diagnosis, and treatment for the symptoms of cognitive impairment and ongoing support of caregivers during all stages of the disease. Together, we work with the individual and their caregivers to develop a plan of support that offers strategies to address day-to-day issues and their own well-being. Whether it is getting care in the home, providing training and guidance for managing behavioral changes, or connecting participants to resources to help alleviate caregiver stress, the JFS COMPASS Team’s goal is to ensure consistent and quality treatment for the patient and to provide extensive caregiver support.

**OUR SERVICES:**
- Initial Diagnostic Visit & Follow-Up Appointments
- Medical Coordination
- Between-Visit Support
- Caregiver Education & Training
- Caregiver Support & Counseling
- Coordination with Community Service Providers
- Help to File for Assistance (if applicable)
- Guidance for Long-Term Planning & End-of-Life Decisions

For more information about our services, the JFS COMPASS team, program eligibility, referral forms, and fees, visit [www.jfsdelaware.org/COMPASS](http://www.jfsdelaware.org/COMPASS) or call Karen at 302-478-9411 x112.
Staff Spotlight

Geriatrician, Maria D’Souza, MD, MPH, joined the JFS team last month as Medical Director of an interdisciplinary team of geriatric professionals in Jewish Family Services’ new program, JFS COMPASS.

Dr. Maria D’Souza brings special expertise in dementia care and caregiver support to JFS. Dr. D’Souza participated in development and evaluation of an innovative interdisciplinary dementia care program during a 3-year geriatrics fellowship at Duke University. She also previously served as Medical Director of a PACE program which enabled older adults with complex medical and social needs to continue living in their own homes. Dr. D’Souza has 15 years of experience providing holistic medical care for older adults in a variety of settings including primary care, acute hospital care, nursing facilities, assisted living, memory care units, house calls, hospice and palliative care.

A graduate of the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine, Dr. D’Souza completed her residency training in internal medicine at the University of Washington, a 3-year geriatrics fellowship at Duke University, and a Masters of Public Health degree at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill.

Dr. D’Souza is thrilled to be part of the JFS mission of strengthening individuals, families, and the community as Medical Director of the JFS COMPASS program, providing team-based medical care for individuals with dementia and guiding families through their journey.

"My patients and their families often tell me how much they value the way I listen. Each older adult has a unique story that I am passionate about hearing and honoring in order to provide true person-centered care. Discussing individual values and goals allows us to formulate a plan of care together and partner with all members of the care team to achieve those goals. Geriatrics is a team sport!"

 Updates & Events

JFS Memory Café
November 6th and 20th from 1:30-3pm at Congregation Beth Emeth
A social gathering for people living with memory changes and their care partners. Contact Karen to register: 302-478-9411

JFS Holiday Helpers – Crafting Project
Thursday, November 7th 8:15-11:30am or 7-9pm at JFS Wilmington
Join JFS Holiday Helpers to make fleece blankets and hats to provide warmth and holiday cheer to neighbors in need.
For more info, contact Rachel at jfsholidayhelpers@gmail.com

JCC Field Trip: Notorious RBG Exhibit
Monday, November 18 from 11:30am – 5:30pm
Join the J for a guided tour at the National American Museum of Jewish History in Philadelphia. Lunch on your own at the food court.
$28/member, $35/public; Call the JCC to register: 302-478-5660

The JFS Village
A Membership Community
The JFS Village is a community of support that provides older adults the services they need to enhance quality of life, remain active, and encourage independence.

Volunteer Hours
October
153 hours
Year-to-Date
1648 hours

JFS Mission & Vision
To strengthen individuals, families, and the community by providing counseling and support services, based on Jewish values.

Our vision is to use our evolving position as a key social service in Delaware to strengthen the support available to our most underserved populations.