

GEORGIA ALZHEIMER'S &
RELATED DEMENTIAS STATE PLAN

2018

PROGRESS REPORT



GARD
— collaborative —

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Acknowledgments

The following 2018 report is respectfully submitted by members of the Georgia Alzheimer's and Related Dementias Advisory Council.

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At the time of publication, the remaining members of the Advisory Council had not yet been appointed. This includes:

- A social gerontologist or clinical researcher in an education or clinical setting with expertise in dementia;
- An advocate with a not-for-profit or state agency whose role is to improve services for older adults or those living with dementia;
- A caregiver, current or past, for a family member with dementia who has experience navigating health care service options.

Advisory Council members acknowledge the contributions of the many people who influenced the development of the GARD State Plan and those who continue to participate in the GARD Collaborative and were instrumental in the development of this report.

Members extend deep respect to the more than 140,000 Georgians who live with dementia, their care partners, and those who form webs of support in service organizations, workplaces, congregations and communities.

Background

HISTORY & TIMELINES

Background, History & Timeline

Today, more than 140,000 Georgians live with Alzheimer's disease, and tens of thousands more experience other forms of dementia. Like many states, Georgia answered the call set forth by the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's – by crafting a unique blueprint to address the growing challenge of dementia.

The Plan's Beginnings

During the 2013 session of the Georgia General Assembly, legislators created the Georgia Alzheimer's and Related Dementias (GARD) State Plan Task Force, a multidisciplinary group convened to improve dementia research, awareness, training, and care. Starting in June of that year, the six task force members and dozens of experts in diverse fields formed committees, conducted research, and made detailed recommendations.

The recommendations formed the core of the GARD State Plan. The document described current demographics, prevalence statistics, and existing resources; analyzed the state's capacity to meet growing needs; and presented a roadmap to create a more dementia-capable Georgia.

State Plan Establishment

In June 2014, Governor Nathan Deal signed the Georgia Alzheimer's and Related Dementias State Plan. Georgia's recommendations cover a range of topics, including research, services, policy, public safety, workforce development, and public education. And undergirding all of these areas is the importance of partnerships – creating a deeply coordinated statewide team of agencies, nonprofits, businesses, and organizations.

A Living Document

The GARD State Plan will undergo regular review to ensure that it reflects emerging priorities, shifts in resources, and evolving public- and private-sector roles. As noted in the Plan, "much of the work that needs to be done now and in future assessment and updates of the Plan will require legislation and corresponding funding to develop and implement that specific item of the Plan. The Advisory Council commits to work with partner stakeholders, state agencies, and legislators to develop and have filed appropriate legislation and corresponding appropriation requests throughout the life of this Plan."

GARD Coordinator & Work Group Structure

In June 2016, a GARD Coordinator was hired within the Department of Human Services. The GARD Coordinator provides support and technical assistance to a collection of work groups that focus on major state plan goals as outlined in the State Plan Overview section.

State Plan

Find the full GARD State Plan at

aging.georgia.gov/georgia-alzheimers-related-dementias-state-plan.

Health Care, Research and Data Collection

1. Promotion of Early and Accurate Diagnosis
2. Development and Usage of Surveillance Data
3. Public Awareness of Dementia as a Chronic Disease
4. Support for People with Dementia and their Caregivers

Workforce Development

1. Assessment of Existing Workforce Status – Size, Competency, Capacity
2. Workforce Training on Dementia and Related Resources
3. Dementia Curricula for Workforce, Students, Consumers, Advocates, and Volunteers
4. Dementia-Specific Training for Emergency Personnel and Second Responders
5. Workforce Retention Planning for Direct-Care Workers and Geriatric Health Care Providers

Service Delivery

1. Assessment of Statewide Capacity, including Urban-Rural Parity
2. Person-Centered Care Training for Professionals, Caregivers, and Volunteers
3. Adoption of Person-Centered Practices in Long-Term Care Facilities
4. Promotion of Person-Centered Facility Design, using Incentives, Training, and Regulations
5. Improvement of Consumers' Access to Key Services and Information (example: respite)
6. Provision of Tools and Guidance to Discharge Planners to Improve Care Transitions
7. Improvement of Transportation Access and Services
8. Strengthened Licensure Requirements and Quality-Care Practices for Service Providers

Public Safety

1. Dementia Training for Law Enforcement and Others that Addresses abuse, neglect and exploitation
2. Tools and Assistance to Reduce Injuries Related to Wandering

Outreach & Partnerships

1. Heightened Awareness and Coordinated Statewide Information Campaigns
2. Promotion of the "Dementia Friendly" Concept and Provision of Community Training
3. Partnerships to Maximize Resources and Access New Funding

OVERVIEW

ACHIEVEMENT & PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

This section demonstrates achievements and progress toward the implementation of the GARD State Plan. The list shown is a sampling and does not encompass every activity, initiative, or project in our state. This includes work occurring through a variety of entities, including nonprofits, universities, Area Agencies on Aging, and the group collaborations. This section also covers accomplishments that are specific to GARD work groups.

Health Care, Research, & Data Collection

- Georgia Memory Net
- Alzheimer's Registry
- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Data Collection

Workforce Development

- Georgia Memory Net
- Dementia Competency Guide
- Second Wind Dreams Virtual Dementia Tour CMP Grant
- Building Resources for Person-Centered Care in Nursing Homes

Service Delivery

- Second Wind Dreams Virtual Dementia Tour CMP Grant
- Decision Tree Tool
- Dealing with Dementia Training
- Assistive Technology Labs
- Benjamin Rose Institute Care Consultations
- Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Program (ADSSP) Grant
- Building Resources for Person-Centered Care in Nursing Homes

Public Safety

- Alzheimer's Training for Public Safety
- Prohibition against Trafficking (House Bill 803)
- At-Risk Adult Crime Tactics Courses
- Relocation Efforts for Victims of Trafficking
- Regional Multidisciplinary Teams (House Bill 635)
- Yellow Dot

Outreach & Partnerships

- Georgia Memory Net
- Dementia Friendly Initiatives
- Dementia Friendly Faith Villages Project
- Brain Strong Flyer Outreach
- ADSSP Grant
- Atlanta Regional Commission Internal Dementia Work Group



DETAILS

GEORGIA MEMORY NET

Description: Georgia Memory Net, formerly the Georgia Alzheimer's Project, seeks to improve the screening and care of Georgians with memory loss and other cognitive impairment indicative of Alzheimer's and other dementias. This project encourages consumers to seek early answers about cognitive health through the use of sustainable primary care models. In SFY2018, Georgia Memory Net established five Memory Assessment Clinics in Augusta, Atlanta, Albany, Columbus and Macon.

Project Leads: The Department of Human Services (DHS) and Emory University lead the project. Emory is partnering with Area Agencies on Aging, the Alzheimer's Association Georgia Chapter, the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving and others.

State Plan Connection: Health Care, Research & Data Collection; Workforce Development; Outreach & Partnerships

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY GEORGIA EFFORTS

The DHS Division of Aging Services (DAS) convened a strategy group in January 2018 to discuss the availability of existing dementia-friendly efforts in Georgia and ways to generate more dementia-friendly activity statewide. The Georgia Gerontology Society developed Requests for Proposals for Dementia Friendly Communities that will begin in SFY2019. The DAS has begun the process of applying for a Dementia Friends sublicense.

Description: Using the Dementia Friendly America model, the state will support communities in Georgia as they become "dementia friendly." DAS is convening a group of stakeholders around the initiative and is collaborating with the Georgia Gerontology Society on helping communities begin this work.

Project Leads: The Division of Aging Services is convening the group. The strategy group includes representation from several community organizations and entities, including but not limited to Emory Healthcare, Dementia Spotlight Foundation, Georgia Gerontology Society, Gwinnett County, DeKalb County, Atlanta Regional Commission, AARP, Georgia State University, Lewy Body Dementia Association, and people with lived experience.

State Plan Connection: Outreach & Partnerships

SECOND WIND DREAMS VIRTUAL DEMENTIA TOUR CIVIL MONEY PENALTY GRANT

Description: Through the work of Second Wind Dreams, over 95,000 long-term care workers in 171 nursing homes will experience the Virtual Dementia Tour (VDT). Participating nursing homes are located in 104 counties across Georgia. Certified trainers are working with each nursing home to provide the VDT and also conduct the Dementia Aware Competency Evaluation (DACE), which measures level of person-centered care provided by staff.

Project Leads: Second Wind Dreams

State Plan Connection: Workforce Development, Service Delivery

AT-RISK ADULT CRIME TACTICS COURSES

Description: The At-Risk Adult Crime Tactics Specialist (ACT) training course is a two-day certification offering for mandated reporters, covering abuse, neglect and exploitation of against at-risk adults. Courses are held at locations throughout the state. ACT training exposes attendees to the nexus between Alzheimer's and potential victimization. Topics covered include how to interview someone with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia, possible courtroom issues, Power of Attorney abuse, capacity for making financial decisions, and quick screenings for law enforcement to utilize when in the field.

ACT advances public safety by making key audiences aware of the complexity of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, by providing an open classroom setting for all disciplines to discuss challenges with at-risk adult abuse and how to overcome those challenges through collaboration with other agencies.

Project Leads: DAS' Forensic Special Initiatives Unit (FSIU) is the developer and trainer for ACT.

State Plan Connection: Public Safety

REGIONAL MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAMS (HB 635)

DHS collaborated with the Prosecuting Attorney's Council and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation on HB 635, which was passed during the 2018 legislative session.

Description: HB 635 gives authority to District Attorneys or their designee to establish Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) within each judicial circuit. The MDTs will assist with the coordination of and responses to investigations of abuse, neglect or exploitation of an older or disabled adult. Other key provisions in HB 635 include:

- Any individuals who made a report according to Code Section 30-5-4 can make a request to DHS to know if the report or reports made by that individual have been received, whether or not an investigation was opened, and whether the investigation is still open or has been closed, and the department will respond in writing within five business days with this information, but no other case information will be released.
- Adult Protective Services (APS) can share records with coroners and medical examiners in death cases where there has been suspected abuse or neglect.

Project Leads: DAS and the Prosecuting Attorneys Council serve as state liaisons for regional teams.

State Plan Connection: Public Safety



PROHIBITION AGAINST TRAFFICKING (HB 803)

Description: The purpose of HB 803 is to prohibit trafficking of an older or disabled adult and to provide for elements of the crime and punishment.

Project Lead: The Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI), Prosecuting Attorney's Council, and DAS collaborated on the development of HB 803.

State Plan Connection: Public Safety

RELOCATION EFFORTS FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

Description: Temporary Emergency Respite Funds (TERF) provide options for at-risk adults in need of safe emergency housing in the absence of a caregiver. Examples of qualifying situations include caregiver arrest or hospitalization or where the caregiver's whereabouts are unknown. The TERF system, which is conducted in partnership with a contract agency, can be accessed 24/7 by law enforcement, Adult Protective Services, or the Department of Community Health's office of Healthcare Facility Regulation. Approximately 15 percent of at-risk adults who required the use of TERF in SFY2018 due to abuse, neglect, exploitation, or unintentional self-neglect had a form of dementia.

Project Leads: DAS

State Plan Connection: Public Safety

ALZHEIMER'S FOR PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICIALS TRAINING

Description: GBI and FSU have conducted multiple classes of "Responding to Alzheimer's for Public Safety" for approximately 300 public safety officials. The class provides information about issues regarding Alzheimer's and other dementias to increase awareness for public safety officials who encounter adults with dementia.

Project Leads: GBI and DAS' Forensic Special Initiatives Unit

State Plan Connection: Public Safety

ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION INTERNAL DEMENTIA WORK GROUP

Description: The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) Aging Services Division developed an internal dementia work group whose members participate in multiple GARD committees and other regional and statewide dementia activities. Members use shared information to increase awareness about dementia, related care, and best practices among clients, caregivers, professionals, providers, and communities in the Atlanta region. The work group also promotes early detection and treatment, builds workforce capacity to enhance person-centered care and service quality, seeks to reduce caregiver burden through services and education, and works to reduce stigma.

Project Leads: ARC

State Plan Connection: Outreach & Partnerships



BUILDING RESOURCES FOR PERSON-CENTERED CARE IN NURSING HOMES

Description: Georgia State University's Gerontology Institute received a \$1.6 million joint grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Georgia State Survey Agency to support a three-year training and development project titled "Building Resources for Delivering Person-Centered Care in Georgia Nursing Homes."

This project builds on the momentum of the Culture Change Network of Georgia and the GARD workforce development work group. The multi-year project will be led by Jennifer Craft Morgan, Associate Professor of Gerontology, and Elisabeth O. Burgess, Director of the Gerontology Institute, in the College of Arts and Sciences at Georgia State University.

The project team will use grant funds to develop a sustainable program model aimed at improving the quality of life of Georgia nursing home residents, including those living with dementia, by providing important resources and staff development and training to the state's 374 nursing homes. The interventions are expected to increase residents' sense of autonomy, independence, empowerment and connectedness.

The project will include the following components: a three-stage needs assessment of Georgia's nursing homes; real-time web-based information and resources for Georgia's nursing homes; stakeholder engagement across the state, providing awareness education on culture change, person-centered care, and living with dementia, and an interactive competency-based online continuing education training for nursing home staff (all levels), residents and informal care partners.

For this project, Dr. Morgan and Dr. Burgess are partnering with the Culture Change Network of Georgia (CCNG). LeadingAge Georgia, led by Ginny Helms, President and CEO, will receive a subcontract to convene the CCNG and partner with other key stakeholders who will serve as advisers to the project. Project consultants are: Walter Coffey, Co-Founder CCNG and Managing Director WD International; Kim McRae, Co-Founder CCNG and President, Have a Good Life; Rose Marie Fagan, Co-Founder and Founding Executive Director, Pioneer Network; and Joan Carlson, Principal, JMC Consulting. The overall aim of this project is to create a sustainable model for improving the quality of life for nursing home residents in Georgia.

Project Leads: Georgia State University Gerontology Institute

State Plan Connection: Workforce Development; Service Delivery

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DECISION TREE TOOL

Description: The goal of the Decision Tree Tool is to help consumers and professionals identify pieces of assistive technology to purchase that will increase independence and decrease reliance on costly formal personal care assistance. The Decision Tree Tool contains dementia-specific questions developed as one of the deliverables of a federal grant titled “Alzheimer’s Disease Supportive Services Program (ADSSP): Creating and Sustaining Dementia-Capable Service Systems for People with Dementia and their Family Caregivers.” More work is needed to continue the development and implementation of the Decision Tree Tool.

Project Leads: Georgia Institute of Technology’s Tools for Life, Georgia’s Assistive Technology Act Program; Georgia Department of Human Services Division of Aging Services

State Plan Connection: Service Delivery

FAITH VILLAGE CONNECTIONS

Dementia-Friendly Faith Villages to Support African American Families

Description: Project leaders are working with African American congregations and providing them with the tools needed to support families living with dementia. Community forums and church leader workshops are held throughout the year. Dr. Fayron Epps of Georgia State University is collaborating with a design team to develop a dementia-friendly worship service and will test the effects on the well-being of families living with dementia.

Project Leads: Georgia State University, Emory University Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center, SageNavigators, and other community partners; funding provided by the Alzheimer’s Association

State Plan Connection: Outreach and Partnerships

CHALLENGES & BARRIERS FOR TRAINING FOR DIRECT-CARE WORKERS

Description: The GARD Service Delivery work group conducted a survey aimed at providers that identified challenges to providing dementia training for direct-care workers. The top two challenges identified were:

- Staffing costs (high training expenses plus inadequate staffing to provide coverage for those who are out for training)
- Training locations and the need to travel to training sites

In the fall of 2017, the Georgia Gerontology Society released a request for proposals to address these barriers to providing dementia training for direct-care workers. In January 2018, three grants of \$2,500 were awarded to fund three projects. Please [click here](#) to access the report that covers the description, results, and lessons learned from these grants.

Project Leads: GARD Service Delivery Work Group, Georgia Gerontology Society

State Plan Connection: Service Delivery and Workforce Development

ROSALYNN CARTER INSTITUTE FOR CAREGIVING: DEALING WITH DEMENTIA

Description: Dealing with Dementia is a one-day workshop for caregivers of individuals living with dementia that provides a collection of resources, tips and educational information. Caregivers receive a guidebook with techniques that may be used to meet daily challenges experienced while providing care to their loved ones. This workshop is being offered at participating Area Agencies on Aging across the state.

Project Leads: Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving

State Plan Connection: Service Delivery; Health care, Research & Data Collection

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY LABS

Description: Assistive Technology labs are designed to provide individuals with dementia and their caregivers with education and hands-on experience using AT devices on display and available for loan. Eleven of the 12 Area Agencies on Aging support Assistive Technology Labs in their regions, with 15 labs total in the state.

Project Leads: Georgia Tech's Tools for Life Program

State Plan Connection: Service Delivery

BENJAMIN ROSE INSTITUTE CARE CONSULTATIONS IN AREA AGENCIES ON AGING

Description: BRI Care Consultation is an evidence-based care coaching program developed by the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging. The program provides cost-effective assistance and support to individuals with chronic conditions and their family and friend caregivers by telephone and e-mail. BRI Care Consultation empowers clients to manage care and find simple, practical solutions to caregiving challenges, facilitates effective communication among family and health care workers, and assists clients in locating services.

Project Leads: Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging, Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving, and DAS. In partnership with BRI and RCI, Georgia DHS expanded the program statewide in 2018, using funding provided through an Administration for Community Living Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Program (ADSSP) grant. Currently nine Area Agencies on Aging are licensed providers, and three refer clients to licensed sites.

State Plan Connection: Service Delivery

SOWEGA COUNCIL ON AGING "DOCS & DINNERS" SERIES

Description: Docs & Dinners is an educational program featuring physicians who present on various health topics. The program offers general information, presents the latest research, and allows for a Q&A session for the audience to ask questions on the topic. In November 2017, the Southwest Georgia (SOWEGA) Council on Aging offered a session on Alzheimer's and related dementias. The guest speaker, a neurologist from a local hospital, presented to more than 100 individuals. The program was so successful that SOWEGA Council on Aging is now offering it quarterly.

Project Leads: Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, Alzheimer's Outreach Center, Alzheimer's Association, Southwest Georgia Council on Aging

State Plan Connection: Outreach & Partnerships

MUSIC THERAPY AT MERCY CARE OF ROME

Description: Staff at Mercy Care of Rome created individualized music playlists for clients with dementia. Patients are provided headphones and can listen to their selected music throughout the day.

Project Leads: Mercy Care of Rome (Adult Day Health)

State Plan Connection: Service Delivery

Northwest GA AAA: Elder Abuse Task Force

Description: The task force provides education and awareness training for service providers, law enforcement and community organizations to prevent the financial, physical, emotional and institutional abuse of older adults.

Project Leads: North Georgia Elder Abuse Task Force

State Plan Connection: Public Safety

MAPHABIT, INC.

Description: MapHabit, Inc. is a medical technology start-up based out of Decatur, Ga. The organization developed the visual map habit system (VHMS) which uses mind-mapping software to develop personalized visual maps that help individuals who have dementia or other forms of memory impairment to structure, schedule, and visualize their day. The company's proprietary approach focuses on the brain areas that support habit behavior and remain fully intact for a substantial time after the memory parts of the brain have been affected. MapHabit boosts habit, not memory.

In June 2018, the company established the buy-in and fundamental framework for key feasibility studies across government, university and private sectors. Research partners will soon begin evaluating the VHMS to study the positive impact it has for individuals and their caregivers suffering from memory impairment

Project Leads: Atlanta VA Medical Center, Emory Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and Holbrook Communities; Research funded in part by the Georgia Research Alliance

State Plan Connection: Service Delivery

YELLOW DOT INITIATIVE

Description: The Department of Public Health (DPH) and its partners launched statewide implementation of the Yellow Dot program. Yellow Dot is designed to be a communication tool for patients and first responders in the event of a car crash or medical emergency. Users install a personalized information packet in their glove compartment, affix a Yellow Dot decal on the rear driver-side window, and store a second packet at home. The program can help officers locate family of a wandering older adult; assist first responders rescuing a patient who cannot speak, and create a consistent, uniform place to keep information that should go with a patient in emergencies. The program now runs in Savannah, Athens, Dublin, Oglethorpe County, Tucker, Dunwoody and Augusta.

Project Leads: The Georgia Department of Public Health is the implementation lead, the Governor's Office of Highway Safety and DAS provided funding, and Alliant Quality provided content development support to prepare for the program pilot.

State Plan Connection: Public Safety

Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias (ADRD) Registry

Description: Data from the registry is being used on a variety of projects. A team of researchers from the Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) linked data from the Registry with data from the Georgia Violent Death Reporting System (GVDRS) to examine the risk of suicide among Georgia Medicare beneficiaries with Alzheimer's or a related dementia. Data from the Registry was also analyzed to examine the risk of accidental fall injuries among Georgia Medicare beneficiaries. The Registry is working with the Georgia Memory Net to develop messaging standards for sending data to the Registry. Five Memory Assessment Centers (MACs) will send data to the Registry once standards are finalized. The collaboration between the Registry and Georgia Memory Net will help project leads establish procedures and protocols for other health care providers to submit data to the Registry while meeting the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) Meaningful Use requirements. The Registry is in the process of receiving up-to-date Medicare claims data for 2015 and 2016 from CMS.

Project Leads: Georgia Department of Public Health

State Plan Connection: Health care, Research & Data Collection



BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM (BRFSS)

Description: The Georgia Department of Public Health includes caregiving and cognitive decline modules in the BRFSS, with caregiving questions in even-numbered years and cognitive decline in odd-numbered years. In SFY2018, project leads examined data from the Caregiving and Cognitive Impairment modules of the 2016 and 2017 GA BRFSS respectively to examine the prevalence of perceived cognitive impairment (PCI) and the burden of caregiving among GA residents. DPH will prepare an annual report that features:

- 2014 – 2016 Georgia Medicare Claims data to examine the prevalence of Alzheimer’s Disease and related dementias (ADRDs) among beneficiaries, with an additional focus on those with multiple comorbidities and developmental disabilities.
- 2000 to 2016 Georgia Mortality Data to examine trends in mortality from ADRDs.

Project Leads: Georgia Department of Public Health

State Plan Connection: Health care, Research & Data Collection

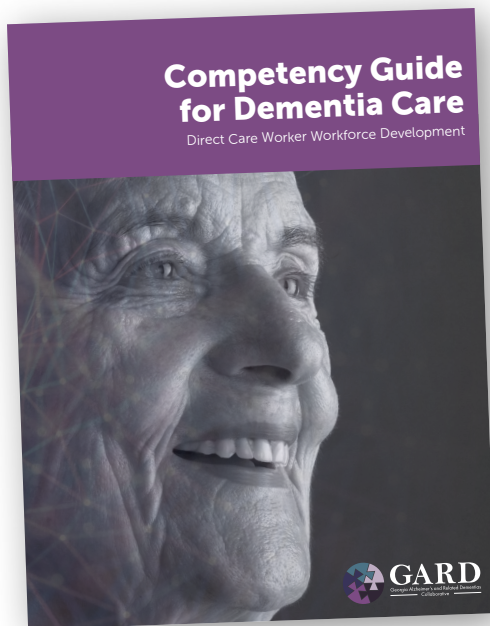
ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PROGRAM (ADSSP) GRANT

Description: The Division of Aging Services completed objectives for the Alzheimer’s Disease Supportive Services Program (ADSSP) expansion grant during SFY18. Activities of note include:

- The Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving (RCI) completed a series of dementia-capable training webinars which are now available to DAS Access to Services staff; community partners and service provider staff, as well as family caregivers in Georgia.
- DAS, in partnership with RCI and the 12 Area Agencies on Aging, developed a statewide infrastructure to provide Benjamin Rose Institute Care Consultation a telephonic coaching program serving people with dementia and their caregivers.
- RCI staff taught 15 “Dealing with Dementia Behavior” courses for Hispanic caregivers living in rural areas of Georgia.
- Georgia Tech Research Corporation, through Tools for Life, developed an assistive technology (AT) decision tree tool for persons with dementia and their caregivers to receive appropriate AT through referrals from the Aging and Disability Resource Connection.
- DAS continued to redesign the state’s approach to caregiver services and related policy to improve dementia-capable services.

Project Leads: DAS, Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving

State Plan Connection: Service Delivery, Outreach & Partnerships



COMPETENCY GUIDE FOR DEMENTIA CARE

Description: “Competency Guide for Dementia Care: Direct-Care Worker Workforce Development” was designed in response to the increasing need for education and training for direct-care workers in dementia. The guide aims to help educators and employers of direct-care workers choose high-quality education as well as improve work environments. The work group authored the guide with support from the larger GARD collaborative as well as with input from care partners and persons living with dementia. The guide covers several topic areas, including person-centered care, communication, prevention and reporting of abuse, and palliative and end-of-life care. It also outlines active learning strategies for employers to consider. The guide was printed with support from the Georgia Gerontology Society.

Project Leads: GARD Workforce Development Work Group

State Plan Connection: Workforce Development



BRAIN STRONG FLYER CAMPAIGN

Description: The Outreach & Partnerships work group developed a brain health awareness flyer for older adults and their family members. The flyer encourages readers to take care of their brain health just as they take care of their heart and other aspects of health. One goal of the flyer is to increase the number of Medicare-eligible adults who take advantage of the Medicare Annual Wellness Visit, which includes a screening for cognitive impairment. The flyer was reviewed and revised by the work group and the larger GARD collaborative as well as by a sampling of Medicare beneficiaries. The work group is coordinating efforts with the Georgia Memory Net outreach campaign to promote the early screening and diagnosis of Alzheimer's and related dementias. The flyer was printed with support from the Georgia Gerontology Society.

Project Leads: GARD Outreach & Partnerships Work Group

State Plan Connection: Outreach & Partnerships

HEALTH CARE, RESEARCH & DATA COLLECTION

Chair: Vacant during SFY2018

SFY2018 Priorities & Initiatives:

- Academic Survey on Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Content in Courses: The work group created a survey to be fielded to Georgia colleges and universities, assessing dementia-related material in the curricula. The survey will be fielded during SFY2019.
- Data Request Form: The group has formalized a form to enable other GARD work groups to request help with their research and data-related projects.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Chair: Vacant during SFY2018

SFY2018 Priorities & Initiatives:

- Capacity Subcommittee — This subcommittee is examining the issue of how capacity is assessed and determined in Georgia, particularly as it relates to guardianship cases. The primary goal is to identify validated tools which evaluators performing capacity evaluations in guardianship proceedings would be recommended to use and to create a toolkit. Although the assessment tools would primarily be used by court evaluators, providers and agencies could use the tools to assess capacity for other purposes other than filing a guardianship petition. The group has consulted with a clinician with experience working with clients living with dementia to work on this project.
- Injury Subcommittee — This subcommittee focused on the implementation of the Yellow Dot program, a Department of Public Health initiative that promotes the use of free information kits to inform first responders about users' medical conditions, emergency contacts and other lifesaving information. The committee adopted a new topic in May 2018 — the intersection of dementia and suicide. The work group is examining available data, inviting partners to the conversation, and determining how to best move forward on this topic.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Chairs: Kathy Simpson, Alzheimer's Association and Dr. Jennifer Craft Morgan, Georgia State University

SFY2018 Priorities & Initiatives:

- Dementia Competency Guide — Developed, written and edited by the work group in order to provide guidance to service providers and educators on what content should be in dementia training and how to best support learners. The guide will be distributed at conferences, trainings, and meetings in SFY2019.
- Health Care Provider Education: The work group is developing a training that is focused on person-centered care and what the person living with dementia wants health care professionals to know. The goal is to have continuing education credit offered for this training.



SERVICE DELIVERY

Chair: Eve Anthony, Athens Community Council on Aging

SFY2018 Priorities & Initiatives:

- Service-Delivery Criteria — The work group is focused on examining how to “establish criteria which define an effective Alzheimer’s/related dementias service delivery system,” as recommended in the GARD State Plan. The group has been working with the Northeast Georgia Area Agency on Aging (AAA) to begin data collection. Once the data has been gathered from multiple sources, the work group will determine feasibility and cost of a statewide analysis in SFY2019.

OUTREACH & PARTNERSHIPS

Chairs: Natalie Zellner, Emory University; Ginny Helms, LeadingAge Georgia

(At the time of her chairmanship, Helms was affiliated with the Alzheimer’s Association, Georgia Chapter.)

SFY2018 Priorities & Initiatives:

- Early Detection & Diagnosis — This work group is focused on education of the public and health care providers of the importance of early detection and diagnosis. The group has developed the Brain Strong flyer around this topic and the promotion of brain health. The work group is also working with the Georgia Memory Net team on an extension of this outreach effort. The Georgia Gerontology Society sponsored printing of the Brain Strong flyers and distribution is underway across the state.

POLICY

Chair: Sheila Humberstone, Stone Bridge Consulting

SFY2018 Priorities & Initiatives:

- GARD Advisory Council Authorization — This work group agreed to support Senate Bill 444 during the 2018 Legislative Session, which establishes the GARD Advisory Council.

Amendment

RECOMMENDATIONS

This section contains recommended revisions to the GARD State Plan. These recommendations have been suggested by active GARD Collaborative participants and reviewed by the GARD Advisory Council. The GARD Collaborative and Advisory Council will review recommendations and put forward a revised State Plan to the Governor for final approval.

Overall

- Organize the goals and strategies with numbers and letters so that they are easily referred to or referenced.
- Review the plan for duplication among sections.
- Create a section for policy-related goals rather than incorporating them into other sections.
- Update goals that have been achieved or are in progress to demonstrate the current status.

Workforce Development

- Revisit language of specific offices or groups, such as “Office of Workforce Development” and opt for broad references to state agencies rather than narrow references to specific offices.
- Examine and resolve the overlap with goals in the Service Delivery section.
- Avoid words such as “require” and “develop” and replace with more general terms.

Service Delivery

- Examine Service Delivery goals for overlap with those of other work groups and identify portions that can be moved to other sections.
- Some of the goals are dense and require many steps. Consider breaking them into phases or clusters.
- The section’s goals are very broad. Examine ways to narrow them.
- Many of the goals need piloting before they can be implemented. Add references to pilots where such activity may be helpful.
- Ensure that the goals incorporate the need to be culturally informed and sensitive, keeping in mind access and barriers to services.

Outreach & Partnerships

- Examine how respite programs could fit into this section, including grant opportunities for caregivers.
- Examine how rural colleges and universities could be a resource for getting information and education to families.

Public Safety

- Include more specific language regarding capacity assessment as it relates to guardianship laws
- Include information about suicide and dementia.

Health Care, Research & Data Collection

- Many goals and strategies attributed to this section of the GARD state plan do not pertain to data collection and/or analysis and would fit more appropriately in other sections. Either move strategies to other sections or revise them to make the goals more relevant to data collection and analysis.