

Arizona Alzheimer's Task Force

Overview

The Arizona Alzheimer's Task Force, in alignment with the State Plan on Aging, is intended to bring together a wide range of public and private stakeholders throughout the State to address the growing human and financial cost of dementia in Arizona.

Specifically, the Task Force is charged with:

1. Developing comprehensive statewide strategies to address the needs of persons with Alzheimer's disease and their care partners/caregivers, and collaboratively building legislative, regulatory and programmatic elements to more cost effectively meet both individual and State of Arizona needs.
2. Planning ways to support research designed to reduce the future human and financial cost of dementia in Arizona.
3. Helping Arizona plan for the anticipated future large scale need for state funded long-term care services.

Under the direction and guidance of a collaborative Planning Group, comprised of the Governor's Office on Aging, the Arizona Department of Economic Security Division of Aging and Adult Services (DES/DAAS), the Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium, and the Alzheimer's Association Desert Southwest Chapter (AA DSW), the Task Force is an overall planning body with four work teams charged with addressing specific issues.

Arizona Alzheimer's Task Force is comprised of approximately 30 invited members from a list of state agencies and community organizations developed by the Planning Group. The Task Force is responsible for the overall development and implementation of the Arizona Alzheimer's Plan, in alignment with the State Plan on Aging. The Task Force will review and vote on recommendations of the Work Teams. Melanie Starns (DES/DAAS) and Deborah Schaus (AA DSW) of the Planning Group will serve as Co-Chairs/ Facilitators of the Task Force. It is envisioned that the Task Force will meet quarterly from March 2011 through September 2014.

Arizona Alzheimer's Task Force Work Teams - All interested organizations and individuals throughout Arizona are encouraged to participate in one or more Work Teams. The Work Teams are tasked with collecting and analyzing data and developing recommendations for their respective Alzheimer's priority areas. Each Work Team will have Co-Facilitators appointed by the Planning Group. It is envisioned that most Work Teams will meet at least monthly until the Task Force finalizes and approves their recommendations. The four Work Teams, which correspond to goals within the State Plan on Aging, are as follows:

- **Impact of the Disease on the State** (*State Plan on Aging Goal 3**)
- **Access to Services** (*State Plan on Aging Goals 1 & 6**)
- **Independence and Safety** (*State Plan on Aging Goals 4 & 5**)
- **Quality of Care Promotion and Regulation** (*State Plan on Aging Goals 7 & 8**)

* The 2011-2014 State Plan on Aging is available at
<https://www.azdes.gov/common.aspx?menu=36&menuc=28&ID=8188>.

Arizona Alzheimer's Task Force
Work Teams' Planned Activities – Scope of Work

The goal of the Arizona Alzheimer's Task Force, in alignment with the State Plan on Aging, is to address the growing human and financial cost of dementia in Arizona. In order to facilitate the best use of volunteers' time and talents and to engage all interested organizations and individuals from communities statewide, the Task Force has Work Teams tasked with collecting and analyzing data and developing recommendations for their respective Alzheimer's priority areas. Each Work Team has Co-Facilitators appointed by the Planning Group. It is envisioned that most Work Teams will meet about monthly until the Task Force finalizes and approves their recommendations. At the September 2011 Task Force meeting, the consideration of related dementias, in addition to Alzheimer's disease, was added to the focus of all Work Teams.

- **Work Team One: Impact of the Disease on the State** (*State Plan on Aging Goal 3*)
Co-Facilitators: Dr. David Coon and Deborah Schaus
 - Current and projected impact to the State of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias
 - Adding cognitive impairment and caregiving questions to the state's BRFSS
 - Advocacy to promote research funding and support
 - Participation in clinical trials
 - Collaboration opportunities to enhance existing research efforts
 - Cultural issues and considerations
- **Work Team Two: Access to Services** (*State Plan on Aging Goals 1 & 6*)
Co-Facilitators: Shawn Trobia and Philip Carll
 - Diagnosis
 - Treatment
 - Insurance Coverage, public and private
 - Transportation
 - Special Needs of People with Younger Onset Dementia
 - Special Needs of People Living in Rural Areas
 - Socialization and Support Opportunities
 - Awareness of Community-Based Resources
 - Promotion of Effective Communication
 - Delivery of Culturally Appropriate Services
- **Work Team Three: Independence and Safety** (*State Plan on Aging Goals 4 & 5*)
Co-Facilitators: Cindy Vargo and Dana Kennedy
 - Community Education
 - Housing
 - Care Options, including family caregiving, adult day health centers, home health, and long term care
 - Guardianship/Conservatorship/Fiduciary Services
 - Long Term Care Funding
 - Preserving Independence
 - Prevention of Abuse and Exploitation
 - Wandering and General Safety Issues
 - Emergency Preparedness
 - Cultural Issues and Considerations
 - Consideration of Alzheimer's and related dementias
- **Work Team Four: Quality of Care Promotion and Regulation** (*State Plan on Aging Goals 7 & 8*)
Co-Facilitators: Larry Clausen and Meg Fenzi
 - Training of Informal Caregivers
 - Training of Formal Caregivers
 - Regulation and Oversight of Formal Caregivers
 - Regulation and Oversight of Professional Guardians/Conservators/Fiduciaries
 - Coordination between Government and Outside Organizations
 - Cultural Issues and Considerations