

Commission on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders
Meeting Minutes
5-20-09

Present: Jeff Maker, Patrice Thabault, Alden Launer, Mary Ellen Spencer, J Paul Giuliani, Nancy Schaedel, Beth Rizzon, Lt. Mark Lauer and Maria Mireault

Announcements

The Vermont Alzheimer's Association will be hosting 5 Memory Walks in different locations around the State on September 19, 2009. Information about the Memory Walks is posted on the Alzheimer's Association website; www.alz.org/vermont/

ADRD Legislative Awareness Day 2010 is scheduled in February.

Commission members thanked Alden Launer for his exceptional devotional prayer to the legislative assembly. Many thanks to Karen Israel who spoke with legislators about the increase in the number of missing persons with dementia or other cognitive impairment and programs to help locate them such as Silver Alert. Those who attended ADRD Legislative Awareness Day found that legislators expressed more interest in the topic than in previous years. The CareTrak demonstration may have drawn attention to the event. Many legislators reported having a family member or friend affected by ADRD. It was suggested that a family caregiver and a person with dementia participate at the 2010 event.

Minutes

The March meeting minutes were accepted as prepared.

Vermont Bar Association Dementia Education

Paul Giuliani will attend the June 2009 meeting of the Vermont Bar Association to propose a dementia education event similar to the one he coordinated in 2006. The previous event, which included a panel discussion on dementia issues with medical practitioners, drew a large crowd of lawmakers.

Missing Persons with Cognitive Impairment / Bill H304

Lieutenant Mark Lauer (Vermont State Police, Fusion Center & Computer Crime) joined the meeting to explain Vermont's current policies and procedures to recover missing persons (including those with cognitive impairment) at the local and state level. Vermont has a comprehensive missing persons system in place when compared to other states.

The Department of Public Safety did not support Bill H304. Their concern with establishing a new alert system for missing persons with cognitive impairment is that the public would become desensitized if more alerts are broadcast. Currently, AMBER Alert is activated for abducted children. Anyone interested in reviewing the materials presented in the testimony to legislators can email Lt. Mark Lauer at mlauer@dps.state.vt.us

Lt. Lauer indicated that instead of implementing another missing person alert system, persons with cognitive impairment (including dementia, mental illness, autism or Down Syndrome) would be better served if there were more training provided to local law enforcement officers about these conditions, their risk of wandering and getting lost, and communication with these individuals.

Lt. Lauer also suggested that families and/or caregivers of persons with cognitive impairment obtain information about preparing ID kits that could assist law enforcement officers in the recovery of the missing individual. The ID kits should include information such as name, date of birth, a recent photograph and DNA material. It would be helpful to have a central repository of this information to quickly access the information if a person is missing. There are restrictions to gathering such information when an individual is impaired but has not been declared incompetent and does not have a court appointed guardian. Lt. Lauer extended an offer to assist the Commission with this work.

The Commission will discuss these recommendations at the June meeting.

AoA Dementia Funding Announcement

Maria provided an overview of the Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Program announcements. There are two funding opportunities available to serve the dementia population.

One is a 3-year project to implement an evidence-based dementia intervention at the community level. The intervention must serve persons with dementia, their family caregivers or both. Up to \$1,000,000 in federal funding will be awarded to each grantee. Grantees are expected to contribute match funding of 25% in year one of the project, 35% in year two and 45% in year three.

The second announcement is seeking proposals for an 18-month project to serve persons with early stage dementia or to develop innovative approaches to enhance the ability of the state, local and community-based network to provide coordinated services for persons with dementia and/or their caregivers. Up to \$500,000 in federal funding will be awarded to selected grantees. Applicants are required to contribute 25% in match funding in year one of the project and 35% in year two.

Applicants must collaborate with at least one Area Agency on Aging, a local organization that has extensive experience in serving persons with dementia and their family caregivers and an organization with research and evaluation experience. If the State Unit on Aging is not the applicant, the State Unit on Aging must also be one of the partners.

To view details of the program announcements and all eligibility criteria visit the Administration on Aging website at www.aoa.gov

Letters of intent are due June 5. Applications must be submitted by July 6.

The Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living may submit an application for this funding opportunity.

Next Meeting: June 22, 2009 10:00-12:00 noon; Weeks 1A Conference Room