

# Massachusetts Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders State Plan Recommendations Update (supplemental document to powerpoint presentation)

This document was compiled by the Alzheimer's Association, MA/NH Chapter. While this document surveys the status of the existing *Massachusetts Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders State Plan Recommendations* from February 2012, we recognize that information regarding services may now be out-of-date and/or incomplete.

## Recommendation #1

### *Improve access to services and information for people with Alzheimer's*

- **Goal 1 - Reduce barriers that prevent access to existing medical and social services for all affected by Alzheimer's, and encourage access to non-traditional services ( e.g. art/music therapy).**
  - Identified barrier - *detection and diagnosis*
  - Status:
    - **Commonwealth of Massachusetts:**
      - Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) policy to screen all Aging Service Access Points (ASAP) clients for cognitive impairment, with a letter sent to the primary care physician
      - Passage of law (Chapter 220 of the Acts of 2018) requires all physicians, physician assistants, registered nurses and practical nurses to secure training on the diagnosis, treatment and care for a person with dementia as a condition of licensure or licensure renewal.
  - Identified barrier - *stigma*
  - Status:
    - **Commonwealth of Massachusetts:**
      - **Dementia Friendly Massachusetts Initiative** is co-convened by EOEA and Jewish Family and Children's Service (JF&CS), and managed by representatives from the Alzheimer's Association MA/NH Chapter, LeadingAge Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging, and the Multicultural Coalition on Aging. The Advisory Committee includes over 40 organizations statewide. The initiative is supported by Tufts Health Plan Foundation. Dementia Friendly Massachusetts is a grassroots movement to make Massachusetts dementia friendly.
    - **Alzheimer's Association:**

- A core service of the Alzheimer's Association is specialized early stage programming providing social engagement opportunities for those in the early stages of the disease and their families.
  - (eg. hikes, theatre, dinner, coffee) to build a community and friendships includes Alz MeetUps.
- **Goal 2 - Increase the availability of information to consumers with Alzheimer's, family caregivers and professional staff about available supportive dementia care services and long term care programs.**
  - Status:
    - **Commonwealth of Massachusetts:**
      - Budget Appropriation (4513-1111), FY18-FY20 Total: \$350,000
        - *Starting in FY18 an annual appropriation has been expended for a grant to a statewide alzheimer's disease advocacy and education organization for a public awareness and education campaign as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*
          - The Alzheimer's Association has implemented public awareness campaign focused on bilingual collateral, advertising and community outreach
      - Dementia Friendly Massachusetts provides tool kits and hosts trainings for businesses on becoming dementia friendly using resources from the national Dementia Friendly movement and a curriculum developed by the Alzheimer's Association.
    - **Alzheimer's Association:**
      - A priority of the Alzheimer's Association includes diversity outreach and engagement to underserved (Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino) communities achieved by dedicated staff positions, volunteer engagement and partnering with community leaders.
        - The Tufts Foundation has awarded funding for a 2-year faith based outreach coordinator position aimed at identifying key faith based organizations and leaders to maximize volunteer recruitment and community engagement.
- **Goal 3 - Increase the availability of information on Alzheimer's health and supportive services to professional caregiving communities as well as other types of businesses**
  - Status:
    - **Commonwealth of Massachusetts:**

- Aging Services Access Points (ASAP) trainings 2014 - all ASAP's partnered with Alzheimer's Association to conduct trainings for nurses and case managers; how to recognize signs and best practices
  - Dementia Friendly implementation
  - Delivery of Dementia in Your Community for business professionals in all sectors covering an overview of dementia and communication strategies; developed and presented by volunteers recruited by the Alzheimer's Association. 72 training programs have been delivered since 2018.
  - Hospice Habilitation training delivered to hospice providers, after finalization of new dementia regulations in long term care
  - EOEA Screening referenced earlier
  - All EOEA Supported Home Health Care providers are required to complete the Person Centered Care, train the trainer program of the Alzheimer's Association. - improving the skill set of in home providers.
  - The Alzheimer's Association has partnered with local first responders to deliver specialized trainings for municipal first responders.
- ***Goal 4 - Assess and address availability of transportation to services for individuals who are unable to drive***
- Status:
  - No known progress at this time. The importance of "arm to arm" specialized transportation service was identified, which is challenging to implement in large transportation systems.

## **Recommendation #2**

### ***Improve and expand support and education for Family Caregivers***

- ***Goal 1 - Enhance respite care opportunities for families coping with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias***
  - Status:
    - **Commonwealth of Massachusetts:**
      - Pending Tax Credit Legislation (H.2608/S.702)
      - Adult Foster Care; Caregiver Homes: <https://www.payingforseniorcare.com/cash-and-counseling/ma-caregiver-homes.html>
    - **Alzheimer's Association:**
      - Early stage social engagement programs; ALZ Meetups are available via the Alzheimer's Association, throughout Mass.
- ***Goal 2 - Expand methods of education and support for caregivers and persons with memory impairment***

- Status:
  - **Alzheimer's Association:**
    - Education programs and support groups are offered throughout the state. Increasingly these programs are delivered by well trained volunteers, often recruited via a collaborative with the Mass Councils on Aging (MCOA). These include short term support groups/ed programs for people with early stage dementia and carepartners.
    - Telephone support groups and webinar-based caregiver education are available for Massachusetts families

### **Recommendation #3**

#### ***Develop an infrastructure for enhanced quality of services within the medical community***

- Goal 1 - *Enhance the quality of life for people with Alzheimer's by coordinating care at the primary care level*
  - Status:
    - **Commonwealth of Massachusetts:**
      - Chapter 220 of the Acts of 2018 requires
        - every hospital to develop and implement an Operational Plan demonstrating the recognition and management of patients with dementia. Effective date October 1, 2021.
        - all physicians, physician assistants, registered nurses and practical nurses to complete training and education on the diagnosis, treatment and care of patients with cognitive impairments including but not limited to Alzheimer's disease. Effective date November, 2022.
        - Physicians report the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease to a family member or legal personal representative and provide information and resources, if the physician has obtained consent of the patient or in the judgement of the physician, the patient is unable to provide consent. Effective date November, 2022.
    - **Alzheimer's Association:**
      - The Alzheimer's Association's Dementia Care Coordination program entails a partnership with health systems (medical practices, outpatient specialty clinics, insurers, SCO's, etc.) where families are directly referred to care consultants at the Alzheimer's Association and/or partnering providers who provide a care consultation to family, referral to community services and with a follow up summary to the referring clinician. Each family receives at least 3 follow up calls within first 6 months.
- Goal 2 - *Utilize federal mandate for an Annual Wellness Visit for Medicare recipients to improve diagnosis and quality of care for people with Alzheimer's*

- Status:
  - **Commonwealth of Massachusetts:**
    - During Annual Wellness Visit, physician will inform family of diagnosis after securing consent from the patient (as required by Chapter 220 of the Acts of 2018)
    - HOPE Act allows clinicians to bill Medicare for care planning conversations.
    - Pending: Improving Hope for Alzheimer's ACT (further advancing training and education of clinicians of this new Medicare benefit)
- Goal 3 - *Implement a continuing education track for physicians and other clinicians in all appropriate provider settings about Alzheimer's and safety issues*
  - Status:
    - **Commonwealth of Massachusetts:**
      - Chapter 220 of the Acts of 2018 requires all physicians, physician assistants, registered nurses and practical nurses to complete training and education on the diagnosis, treatment and care of patients with cognitive impairments including but not limited to Alzheimer's disease. Effective date November, 2022.
      - MA Medical Society is launching a 4-session CME accredited education series in collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association
      - The Acute Care Component of Chapter 220 of the Acts of 2018 requires dementia training within facility (Recommendation 5) including all clinical and relevant nonclinical staff
    - **Alzheimer's Association:**
      - A CME accredited program created by the Alzheimer's Association, MA/NH Chapter Medical Scientific Advisory Committee, is available online at <https://www.alzmassnh.org/hospital/physician-cme-course/> , currently at no charge

#### **Recommendation #4**

#### ***Improve public awareness surrounding risk factors and risk reduction for Alzheimer's disease***

- Goal 1 - *Complete a full statewide rollout of Silver Alert*
  - Status:
    - **Commonwealth of Massachusetts:**
      - Following the passing of Silver Alert legislation, the Executive Office of Elder Affairs convened a work group comprised of

representatives of the Alzheimer's Association, Adult Protective Services, members of law enforcement and representatives of 911 Dispatch. The workgroup no longer convenes.

- The Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee mandated dementia training for all 10,000 Veteran Police Officers with a curriculum developed by Law Enforcement and the Alzheimer's Association. Follow up indicated that implementation of this mandate was inconsistent.
- The Alzheimer's Association provided dementia content for inclusion in the mandated 911 personnel training. It has yet to be implemented.
- *Goal 2 - Develop a public awareness campaign to promote a healthy lifestyle in relation to risk reduction for Alzheimer's*
  - Status:
    - **Commonwealth of Massachusetts:**
      - Modest funding from legislature, via Department of Public Health, has enabled Alzheimer's Association to implement this in the spring of the past two years
- *Goal 3 - Reduce risk and level of harm created by economic abuse of people with Alzheimer's disease*
  - Status:
    - **Commonwealth of Massachusetts:**
      - Chapter 220 of the Acts of 2018 requires all designated local agencies provide training to protective services caseworkers focused on recognizing cognitive impairments and understanding how it may affect screening, investigation and service planning.
      - The Executive Office of Elder Affairs provides this training
    - **Alzheimer's Association:**
      - In 2013 and 2014, Alzheimer's Association partnered with EOEA and other agencies to deliver several webinars for financial planners
      - Multiple one-off trainings for financial advisors with specific companies have been provided
- *Goal 4 - Develop an initiative to improve home safety issues for families affected by Alzheimer's disease*
  - Status:
    - **Alzheimer's Association:**
      - *Safety at Home* education program is available but currently delivered infrequently.
      - Developed a curriculum for EOEA Homecare staff

## Recommendation #5

**Create a set of statewide recommendations, guidelines and minimum standards surrounding quality of care in all care settings**

- Goal 1- *Develop and establish required curricula with minimum of hours of training on dementia for all staff in all relevant care settings*
  - Status:
    - **Commonwealth of Massachusetts:**
      - Skilled Nursing Facility law passed in 2012, regulations passed in 2014
    - **Alzheimer's Association:**
      - Evidence based Dementia Care Practice Recommendations published in February 2018
      - Person Centered Dementia Care/train-the-trainer curriculum is available for long-term care and community based care settings
- Goal 2 - *Improve opportunities for purposeful living throughout the day and evening to all persons, in all care settings in the state*
  - Status:
    - **Commonwealth of Massachusetts**
      - 2012 law requires therapeutic activities in long term dementia care - special care units.
- Goal 3 - *Develop a set of best practice for all care settings regarding environmental design for people with dementia*
  - Status:
    - **Commonwealth of Massachusetts:**
      - Chapter 220 of the Acts of 2018 requires every hospital to develop and implement an Operational Plan demonstrating the recognition and management of patients with dementia, which includes the development of a dementia friendly environment. Effective date October 1, 2021.
    - **Alzheimer's Association:**
      - Dementia Care Practice Guidelines, published in February of 2018. See link:[https://www.alz.org/professionals/professional-providers/dementia\\_care\\_practice\\_recommendations](https://www.alz.org/professionals/professional-providers/dementia_care_practice_recommendations)

**Additional Recommendations**

- Public Health Framework: how to educate the public about modifiable risk factors (diet, exercise, managing cardiovascular risk factors, etc); using the state's public health infrastructure. Look at CDC guidelines: The Healthy Brain Initiative's (HBI) State and Local Public Health Partnerships to Address Dementia, The 2018-2023 Road Map; <https://www.cdc.gov/aging/healthybrain/roadmap.htm>

- Implementing new law (Chapter 220 of the Acts of 2018)
  - Need concerted efforts by private and government sectors
- Diversity/Inclusion issues - Alzheimer's has a far greater impact on African Americans and Latino/Hispanics.
- Current national effort to amend Older American Act (national Younger Onset Bill) to allow services and supports to those with younger-onset Alzheimer's under the age of 60.
- Coordinating State and appropriate Federal agencies addressing the needs of families living with dementia
- Explore developing a state role to expand funding of dementia research
- Implementing Quality of Care Standards (Alzheimer's Association Dementia Care Practice Recommendations) across all community and long term care settings
  - NH just enacted dementia care training standards across all care settings
- Adopting Dementia Care Coordination as a best practice throughout clinical settings serving older adults including self funding strategies.