

# MA Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders State Plan Recommendations Update

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***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Disorders State Plan Recommendations from February 2012, we recognize that information regarding services may now be out-of-date and/or incomplete.***

# Status Summary as of October 7, 2019

## ***Rec 1: Improve access to services and info***

Goal 1: Reduce barriers to medical care and social services	Some progress
Goal 2: Improve info available to families and professionals	Some progress
Goal 3: Increase info available to professional caregivers	Significant progress
Goal 4: Access & address availability of transportation	No progress

## ***Rec 2: Improve/expand support and education for families***

Goal 1: Enhance respite opportunities	Some progress
Goal 2: Expand methods of support for people with dementia and families	Significant progress – more needed

## ***Rec 3: Develop infrastructure to improve quality of medical care***

Goal 1: Coordinate care at primary care level	Significant progress – implementation is key
Goal 2: Implement Annual Wellness Visit tools	Some progress
Goal 3: Implement continuing ed. for MD's & other clinicians	Significant Progress - implementation is key

Cont. →

# Status Summary as of June 18, 2019

## **Rec 4: Public awareness around risk reduction**

Goal 1: Statewide roll out of Silver Alert	Significant initial progress – lagging now
Goal 2: Public Awareness campaign around risk reduction	Some progress
Goal 3: Address economic abuse of people with dementia	Some progress
Goal 4: Initiative to address home safety	Some progress

## **Rec 5: Establish statewide quality of care min. standards – across all care settings**

Goal 1: Required curricula/min. hours training – all care settings	Significant progress
Goal 2: Improve purposeful living across all care settings	Some progress
Goal 3: Develop best practices for environmental design	Some progress

## **Additional Recommendation Categories**

- 1: Implement public health framework
- 2: Fully implement '18 dementia law
- 3: Address diversity issues
- 4: Address younger onset issues
- 5: Address affordability of care issues
- 6: Coordinate across state agencies
- 7: Develop MA strategy to advance research

# Recommendation #1

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

# Goal #1 Status

Recommendation 1, Goal 1

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*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).*

- Cognitive screenings for ASAP clients
- Dementia Friendly MA Initiative
- Chapter 220 of the Acts of 2018 requires dementia training for physicians, physician assistants, registered nurses and practical nurses
- Alzheimer's Association: younger-onset/early stage programming

# Goal #2 Status

Recommendation 1, Goal 2

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*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.*

- Budget Appropriation (4513-111) Public Awareness Campaign funded by Legislature and DPH
- Dementia Friendly MA toolkits and training for local businesses
- Alzheimer's Association diversity and inclusion priority
  - Tufts Foundation funding for faith based outreach

# Goal #3 Status

Recommendation 1, Goal 3

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*Increase the availability of information on Alzheimer's health and supportive services to professional caregiving communities as well as other types of businesses*

- ASAP trainings
- Dementia Friendly MA implementation including resources and training for local businesses
- Hospice training
- EOEA Screening
- Supported Home Health Training
- First Responder Training



# Goal #4 Status

- No known progress at this time.
  - The importance of “arm to arm” specialized transportation service was identified.
  - Challenging to implement in large transportation systems.

Recommendation 1, Goal 4

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*Assess and address availability of transportation to services for individuals who are unable to drive*

# Recommendation #2

Improve and expand support and education for  
Family Caregivers

# Goal #1 Status

Recommendation 2, Goal 1

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*Enhance respite care opportunities for families coping with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias*

- 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

# Goal #2 Status

Recommendation 2, Goal 2

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*Expand methods of education and support for caregivers and persons with memory impairment*

- Dementia Friendly MA
- Mass Councils on Aging (MCOA) collaborative with the Alzheimer's Association to recruit & train volunteers to deliver programs throughout MA
- Education programs and support groups offered by the Alzheimer's Association including
  - time limited support group/ed programs for newly diagnosed individuals and their families
  - Telephone based support groups
  - Caregiver education webinars

## **Recommendation #3**

Develop an infrastructure to enhance quality of services within the medical community

# Goal #1 Status

Recommendation 3, Goal 1

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*Enhance the quality of life for people with Alzheimer's by coordinating care at the primary care level*

- Chapter 220 of the Acts of 2018 requires:
  - dementia training for physicians, physician assistants, registered nurses and practical nurses
  - physicians report the diagnosis of dementia to a family member or legal representative
  - every hospital to develop an operational plan for the recognition and management of patients with dementia
- Alzheimer's Association Dementia Care Coordination Program

# Goal #2 Status

## Recommendation 3, Goal 2

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*Utilize federal mandate for an Annual Wellness Visit for Medicare recipients to improve diagnosis and quality of care for people with Alzheimer's*

- During Annual Wellness Visit, physician will inform family of diagnosis after securing consent from the patient (as required by recent law)
- 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 Status

## Recommendation 3, Goal 3

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*Implement a continuing education track for physicians and other clinicians in all appropriate provider settings about Alzheimer's and safety issues*

- Chapter 220 of the Acts of 2018 requires dementia training for physicians, physician assistants, registered nurses and practical nurses
  - MA Medical Society is developing a 4-session series for physicians
  - Alzheimer's Association offers CME accredited education course for physicians
- Alzheimer's Association Person-Centered Dementia Care (Train the Trainer model) curriculum for long-term care and community based settings



## **Recommendation #4**

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

# Goal #1 Status

Recommendation 4, Goal 1

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*Complete a full statewide rollout of Silver Alert*

- Silver Alert legislation
  - EOEa convened workgroup, no longer meets
  - Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee mandated dementia training for all Veteran Police Officers (developed by Law Enforcement and the Alzheimer's Association). Implementation was inconsistent
  - First Responder, Fire, EMS, Search & Rescue curriculum developed and delivered by the Alzheimer's Association on optional basis
  - 911 Operator training has yet to be implemented

# Goal #2 Status

Recommendation 4, Goal 2

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*Develop a public awareness campaign to promote a healthy lifestyle in relation to risk reduction for Alzheimer's*

- Budget Appropriation (4513-111) Public Awareness Campaign funded by Legislature and DPH and implemented by the Alzheimer's Association
- MCOA (Mass Councils on Aging) & Alzheimer's Association are collaborating on extending healthy lifestyle message

# Goal #3 Status

Recommendation 4, Goal 3

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*Reduce risk and level of harm created by  
economic abuse of people with  
Alzheimer's disease*

- Chapter 220 of the Acts of 2018 require training to protective services caseworkers
  - EOEa developed and delivers training
- EOEa, the Alzheimer's Association and other agencies collaborated on webinars for financial planners

# Goal #4 Status

Recommendation 4, Goal 4

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*Develop an initiative to improve home safety issues for families affected by Alzheimer's disease*

- Alzheimer's Association created and delivered a curriculum for EOEA Homecare staff
- Alzheimer's Association offers a safety at home education program as requested

# Recommendation #5

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

# Goal #1 Status

Recommendation 5, Goal 1

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*Develop and establish required curricula with minimum of hours of training on dementia for all staff in all relevant care settings*

- Skilled Nursing Facility law passed in 2012, regulations passed in 2014
- Alzheimer's Association published evidence based Dementia Care Practice Recommendations in February 2018
- Alzheimer's Association offers Person Centered Dementia Care/train-the-trainer curriculum for residential and community based care settings
- Dementia Care guidelines for Assisted Living and training for Adult Day Health are in place

# Goal #2 Status

Recommendation 5, Goal 2

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*Improve opportunities for purposeful living throughout the day and evening to all persons, in all care settings in the state*

- 2012 law requires therapeutic activities in skilled nursing facilities- special care units
- 2014 Assisted Living regulations require staff working with residents with dementia be trained in creating a therapeutic environment



# Goal #3 Status

Recommendation 5, Goal 3

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*Develop a set of best practice for all care settings regarding environmental design for people with dementia*

- Chapter 220 of the Acts of 2018 requires every hospital to develop an operational plan for the recognition and management of patients with dementia including the development of a dementia friendly environment
- 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 (HBI) State and Local Public Health Partnerships to Address Dementia, The 2018-2023 Road Map; <https://www.cdc.gov/aging/healthybrain/roadmap.htm> to guide public health strategies
- Implementing Chapter 220 of the Acts of 2018
  - Need concerted efforts by private and government sectors

Cont. →

# Additional Recommendations (cont'd)

- Diversity/Inclusion issues
  - Alzheimer's has a far greater impact on Black/African Americans and Latino/Hispanics
- Older Americans Act
  - 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.
- Affordable services
  - Access and affordability to vital support services such as Assisted Living and In-Home Care

Cont. →

# Additional Recommendations (cont'd)

- 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.

# Thank You

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