

Alzheimer's Disease Digest

Communication from the Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force

Volume II - March 2010

State Task Force Wants to Hear From People Living With Alzheimer's Disease and Their Caregivers

As California's Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force approaches the half-way point in its planning process, the group is actively seeking input from people directly impacted by the disease through a wide range of outreach activities planned for March – June 2010. The intent is to enrich the work of the full Task Force and three subcommittees, each of which has met multiple times since the September 21, 2009 project launch date.

To ensure public access to the process, a series of events will take place, including:

- Conversations with people in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease facilitated by support group leaders and memory club moderators.
- Online survey of family caregivers to communicate their needs relative to a State Plan for Alzheimer's disease. The survey will be available in Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese, Spanish and English.
- Forums designed to reach underserved populations within the African American, Asian-Pacific Islander and Latino communities.

In addition, the Task Force is soliciting technical expertise on a host of complex issues related to Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. This will be accomplished by:

- Conducting telephone interviews with a dozen national and state policy leaders with expertise in financing strategies.
- Gathering education and training professionals to discuss strategies for increasing geriatric workforce capacity – especially in underserved rural communities – as well as improving dementia competency for all care providers.

- Presenting case studies to test the best practices in end-of-life care for people diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease with a focus on access to hospice and palliative care.
- Inviting leaders in health information technology and telehealth to present to the group on opportunities to better serve people with dementia and their caregivers.

Over the past six months, task force members have reviewed and analyzed completed plans from 10 other states, as well as San Francisco's recently released "*Strategy for Excellence in Dementia Care*" and Los Angeles county's "*Informal Caregiving: Implications for Public Health*" survey issued in February.

This effort would not be possible without generous financial support to the Alzheimer's Association by four private foundations: The SCAN Foundation, The California Endowment, Archstone Foundation and The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation.

The next meeting of the Alzheimer's State Plan Task Force is Thursday, April 15 in Oakland.

To learn more about this process,

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