

Alzheimer's Plan Task Force Work Group
Access to Services

Tele-conference August 14, 2012

5 pm

Members on the call:

- Angie Pratt
- Taralynn Bassum
- Albert Chavez
- Katrina Schaffner
- Lynn Chambliss
- Gini Cunningham

Introductions

Key points of Access to Services

- Detection
- Diagnosis
- Treatment
- Transportation
- Needs of younger versus older onset
- Access to services for people living in rural areas
- Socialization and support system
- Marketing of community resources
- Gaps in service
- Cultural issues and considerations

Detection and Diagnosis – group focused on ways to provide access to diagnosis for rural areas. Lynn discussed the tele-conferences (*telemedicine*) possibilities through Elko Regional Hospital and the Cleveland Clinic in Las Vegas. *Lynn wanted to clarify that the diagnosis came from the neurologist in the Elko after interviews and test; the follow-up came through the telemedicine conferencing with the Cleveland Clinic and Dr. Bernach.*

High praise for the work of Dr. Bernach in outreach to rural area.

Taralynn stated the Renown in working on a similar program.

Lynn, Taralynn, and Albert will check on hospitals in Nevada that provide this service, cost, reimbursement, and how to make neurological exams, spinal taps, etc. available to a wider range of individuals.

Albert will also research video and live coordination of all care for a patient. "Full continuum of services."

Needs of Younger versus Older Onset

Katrina shared that her father's Alzheimer's began when he was 49. She will research services available to younger onset individuals; how to provide good service within a reasonable expense range.

Albert mentioned that the Southern Nevada Alzheimer's Association offers a variety of support groups including on for individuals who are in the early stages of the disease so that they can create their own network.

There is general concern that those with Alzheimer's who attend support group meetings are overwhelmed by the discussions and the eventualities that may lie ahead for them. A separate group allows the chance for release of emotions just as the regular support group permits an outlet for caregivers.

Gini will research how to extend support groups to all outlying areas including tele-medicine, tele-conferences such as this one, etc.

Access to Services in Rural Areas

Albert added that even though Las Vegas is metropolitan, his office is also responsible for outlying areas such as Tonopah, Searchlight, and Pahrump.

How can support groups and state mandates better serve these areas? What are the primary gaps in service?

Albert will look into this. Jennifer in Pahrump, will you please provide us with insight from your area?

Katrina expressed concern for affordable health care within each Nevada community. While large cities provide Alzheimer's and memory care facilities, most rural areas do not.

Winnemucca is not a lock-down facility, nor is Lovelock or Battle Mountain.

However in Battle Mountain patients are equipped with exit detection devices.

Katrina will research services available in rural communities and how to increase long-term care services for those with dementia.

Taralynn will check into services available in Fallon (and maybe Fernley??).

Albert will help us find a way to keep Nevada in Nevada rather than sending violent or behavior problems to other states (California and Idaho).

Marketing and Community Resources

Lively discussion was held as to how to better share information with all individuals and caregivers.

- Newsletters to hospitals and care facilities
- Bulletins
- Advertisement segments in newspapers throughout the state
- Nevada Alzheimer's and other dementias website to include:
 - Expectations for individuals with the disease
 - Information on assisted living and other residential possibilities
 - Information on life decisions such as Powers of Attorney
 - Advanced directives for viewing and printing
 - Patients rights during medical care
 - Caregivers rights as they advocate for a loved one
 - Format for discussions to take away the stress on caregivers of "Am I making the right decisions?"
 - Resources available (doctors, neurologists, care facilities, outreach programs)
 - Research studies available
 - The latest information and updates on the disease
 - Survey for what viewers need more (or less of) through the website
 - Survey for satisfaction with doctors, facilities, etc.

Gini thought that perhaps a graduate student in communications might take on this project to get a website for the state up and running.

Albert wants to see that all of this comes together with continuity and a continuum of awareness.

Assignments for Phone-in August 21 at 5pm

Angie	Information on cultural issues and considerations
Taralynn	Services for tele-medicine with Renown Alzheimer's services in Fallon Ideas for better servicing out-lying areas
Katrina	Long-term care possibilities in rural areas; role of hospice and other in-home care services (What about training ideas/opportunities?)
Lynn	What is available for younger onset patients? Hospital services for those with Alzheimer's in rural Nevada – expectations for care
Albert	Tele-medicine possibilities with the Cleveland Clinic and rural Nevada; keeping patients in Nevada; other support group ideas Creating a "Full Continuum"
Beth	Please let us know the psychiatric side of supporting Alzheimer's victims and caregivers from your experience. I am wondering how we better meet the stressful and overwhelming needs of individuals and families.
Jennifer	Please let us know expectations and services in Pahrump. I'd also like to gain more knowledge about the law enforcement side of this; what training should be available? How can we better help the DMV recognize individuals who should not have a driver's license renewed.
Susan	Please let us know how you found long-term services for your brother and what others need to know when looking for this. Also provide us with insight into long distance care giving. How can individuals and the state better help you?
Deaun	Please share knowledge and insight on long-term care giving and

	aids such as A Place for Mom etc. Do you have ideas on website creation?
Gini	Research website possibilities; Extending Support Group outreach through newsletters and tele-conferencing

Next call in:

August 21, 2012 at 5 pm

Dial 1-213-493-0800

Access code 368872#

Same information for September 4, 2012 call-in.

Our goal is to present information for legislation. For example we might say:

It is recommended that Nevada develop an Alzheimer's and other dementias website that includes:

- access to services in rural areas
- extending support group outreach services
- tele-conferencing with hospitals and research clinics that provide diagnosis and treatment for Alzheimer's and other dementias (*telemedicine is the correct term*)
- advance directives