



## Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease (TFAD)

### MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, March 12, 2024  
10:00AM

Place of Meeting: Microsoft Teams meeting

#### 1. **Roll Call, Opening Statement:**

- Members & Alternates: Phillip Kalsman, Dr. Dylan Wint, Gini Cunningham, Dr. Jennifer Carson, LeeAnn Mandarino, Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop, Dr. Peter Reed, Susan Hirsh, Niki Rubarth, Kate Ingalsby
- Staff & Guest: Carole Hanley, Benjamin Challinor, Connie McMullen, Belz & Case Government Affairs- Scribe by Rewatch, Lani Karosich, Susan Wascheski, Ferrari Reeder, Sabrina Schur, Chakhan Dews

#### 2. **Public Comment:**

- No public comment made.

#### 3. **For Possible Action:** Approval of TFAD's January 9, 2024, Meeting Minutes:

- LeeAnn Mandarino motion to approve the minutes,
- Dr. Peter Reed second the motion,
- All approved.

#### 4. **Presentation and Discussion:** Presentation from the Alzheimer's Association on Nevada Memory Care Network:

- Presentation is available with the [meeting materials on the ADSD website](#).
- Nevada's Memory Care Network will be based off the one developed in Georgia.
- These 5 main goals from Georgia will be closely followed in Nevada:
  - Improve the screening of Nevadans with memory loss with a sustainable Annual Wellness Visit (AWV) model.
  - Establish Memory Assessment Clinics, or hubs, in Northern and Southern Nevada that can accurately diagnose Alzheimer's and related dementia and improve care.
  - Improve patient health outcomes through an early and accurate.

- diagnosis, and support the needs with care partners.
  - Reduce the overall cost of care associated with a dementia diagnosis.
  - Support the oversight and evaluation of project performance and direct data collection for research.
- The sooner a person is diagnosed could potentially save a significant amount of money and provide them with the most recent treatments.
- It is very important that the Primary Care Physician, Memory Clinic and Care Navigators have a strong, continual communication and care plan in place.
- Making sure that the rural areas have resources available to them and getting additional training across all 17 counties is crucial.
- The Memory Assessment Clinics would create the treatment plan and care plans then make a warm handoff to the primary care provider and care team.
- Currently Nevada does not have a Dementia Care Navigator in statue. Community Health workers would need to provide coordination for the referrals to community-based services.
- Senate Bill (SB) 297 was introduced in the 2023 Legislative Session and made it to the Senate Finance Committee where it stalled.
- The University of Nevada Reno (UNR) and the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) contracted with clinics specializing in neurology to be able to provide memory assessment clinics and community health workers for the navigators.
- Dr. Wint asked about the estimated amount of cost savings: [approximately \\$63,000. \\$30,000 would be Medicare, \\$20,000 Medicaid and \\$13,000 is other savings.](#) Does Nevada have enough specialists to make dementia diagnosis, or would they need more trained or imported specialists: [More specialists are currently needed.](#)
- LeeAnn Mandarino asked for outcomes from Georgia’s memory net to help promote support: [Mr. Challinor is going to be working with partners to gather information.](#) Was there an increase in early diagnostics and what other benefits were there? [This information is currently unknown.](#)
- Dr. Reed commented that he could find the peer review information that was sent when they were working with Georgia to develop the plan.
- In addition, building capacity around neurology makes it a scalable model. Creating a hub team in both north and south locations will allow for expansion gradually as the need increases.
- Dr. Reed mentioned it may be beneficial for the collaborative partners to meet again to review changes and start building the legislative approach for the next session.
- Susan Hirsch questioned how sustainable the funding was or if other funding options were being investigated. [Certain elements in the model are billable, which keeps the cost down. Once the program is in place data can be presented that would be presented to the legislature to potentially get an increase in funding.](#)

- Dr. Carson mentioned that the Dementia Engagement, Education and Research (DEER) program is working in partnership with Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) to bring on three dementia Care Specialist positions. The positions would cover three rural communities.
  - The chair opened the discussion for public comment and Kate Ingalsby asked what the training and referral loops process be for the dementia care specialist? [The DEER program in conjunction with the Nevada Care Connection Resource Centers are working together to provide training.](#) Secondly what type of memory assessment would be performed? [Different partners would help develop a testing model.](#)
  - [Cognitive Assessment that are available to providers.](#)
5. **For Possible Action:** Review, Discuss and Approval of an Interim Legislative Subcommittee and the roles of the members.
- LeeAnn Mandarino and Dr. Jennifer Carson will work with staff to form a structure and flexible format for a subcommittee to follow and will bring it to the May TFAD meeting for approval.
6. **For Possible Action:** Final Review and Approval of TFAD's 2023 Recommendations in the State Plan to Address Alzheimer's for potential presentation grouping, subcommittees, and combined efforts.
- The grouping will be brought back to May's meeting to clean up verbiage,
  - Gini Cunningham motioned to adopt the objectives as written,
  - Dr. Carson second the motion,
  - All approved
7. **For Possible Action:** Tentative Agenda Topics for May 14, 2024, meeting:
- Revised wording for Recommendation grouping.
  - Starting with Recommendation grouping #1, Dr. Carson will present on Dementia Care Specialist program.
  - Alzheimer's presentation on the new facts and figures.
  - Assign recommendations to members with deadlines.
  - Discussion on residents wandering away from assisted living facilities and dying.
8. **Public Comment:**
- Benjamin Challinor stated that the Alzheimer's Association recently released [10 healthy habits for your brain health](#). This information has been updated with new research results. The research shows that these habits will help lower the risk of cognitive decline and possibly from getting Alzheimer's or dementia.
  - Niki Rubarth shared that the Alzheimer's Association has launched a new campaign Take Action Talk. This campaign is to promote early detection and diagnosis.
  - Introduction for the new Alzheimer's Association Public Health Program Manager Lani Karosich was made.

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9. **Adjournment:** 12:02pm

**NOTE:**

- Supporting documents referenced above in the “for possible action” items may be requested from Carole Hanley, Commission Administrative Support, ADSD at [clhanley@adsd.nv.gov](mailto:clhanley@adsd.nv.gov) and is/will be available at the meeting locations and ADSD website at [Task Force on Alzheimer’s Disease \(TFAD\)](#).

**AGENDA POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:**

Notice of this meeting was posted at the following Aging and Disability Services Office at 3208 Goni Road, Building I, Suite 181, Carson City, NV. 89706. Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet through the Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division website at <https://adsd.nv.gov> and Nevada Public Notices website at <https://notice.nv.gov>

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