

Nevada Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease

State Plan Recommendations Planning Template

Recommendation #: 5

TFAD Member Lead(s): Alzheimer's Association

Current Recommendation as Stated:

Recommendation #5: Outreach to Physicians (2017)

Recommendation

Support collaborations between medical professionals and medical associations to adopt and promote use of best-practice diagnostic guidelines for Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. Support a meaningful and effective communication continuum between these professionals and community-based service organizations, including referrals to community-based resources.

Indicators

Data gathered by the Alzheimer's Association.

Potential Funding

Alzheimer's Association. Grants, donations, and/or gifts.

Determination: Do you propose that for the 2021 State Plan this recommendation be:

- 1) ~~Retained as is~~
- 2) ~~Retired to the Appendix (it has been accomplished or is no longer relevant)~~
- 3) **Revised / Updated**

Justification: If you propose revising this recommendation, what is your rationale for your suggested changes? Updated resources for physician referral, health systems outreach and a new partnership agreement with Division of Public and Behavioral Health.

Suggested Revisions: Please provide the text for your suggestions on how to revise the recommendation (and be sure to include each of the following required elements):

- **Recommendation:**

Continue to support collaborations between medical professionals and medical associations to adopt and promote use of best-practice diagnostic guidelines for Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. Support a meaningful and effective communication continuum between these professionals and community-based service organizations, including referrals to community-based resources.

Specifically, support statewide partnerships and collaborations to increase access to early diagnosis of Alzheimer's and other dementias, and to expand dementia care education across primary care practices and health systems in Nevada. These initiatives will include, but are not limited to, the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Programs (GWEPs) through the UNR and UNLV schools of medicine, the Sanford Center for Aging, Project ECHO Nevada, the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, as well as the partnership between the Alzheimer's Association and the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health.

- **Indicators:**

Data gathered through the CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey modules on subjective cognitive decline and caregiver burden. Alzheimer's Association physician referral data reports. Determining the extent to which best-practice diagnostic guidelines are utilized is difficult. We know that outside of research settings, a substantial portion of those who would meet the diagnostic criteria for Alzheimer's and other dementias are not diagnosed by a physician.¹ In order to assess if medical professionals are incorporating these

¹ 2020 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures

diagnostic protocols into their practices, it is important to determine if patients, and/or their caregivers are aware of a diagnosis of Alzheimer's or other dementias from their provider. Healthy People 2020 includes a category of objectives focused on dementias, including Alzheimer's. One of these, specifically measures the increase in the proportion of adults aged 65 years and older with diagnosed Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, or their caregiver, who are aware of the diagnosis. This measure uses Medicare Current Beneficiary Survey data as well as other data sources. We recommend the Department use this measure to determine progress toward increasing the numbers of individuals aware of a diagnosis of Alzheimer's or other dementias. The baseline is 62% of adults age 65 or older (and/or their caregivers) with a dementia are aware of the diagnosis. The target for Healthy People 2020 is 68%.² Healthy People 2030, while not yet released, will likely include this or a similar measure.

- **Potential Funding:**

Federal/state, foundation grants. Private gifts.

² Healthy People 2020, [Healthypeople.gov](https://www.healthypeople.gov), Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion