

DREAMS FOUNDATION, INC.

A Nevada Nonprofit Corporation
IRS 501(c)(3) Public Charity 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

August 5, 2016

Valerie Wiener, Chairman

Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease

Re: Public Testimony – State Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease (as of June 2016)

Good morning, Madam Chairwoman, and Members of the Task Force. I am unable to attend today's meeting, but I have read the State Plan. At your call, of course, might my brief comments be read into the public record? (Regardless, thank you for including them in the written record of the TFAD's Public Comment.)

Foremost, your focused leadership of the Task Force and the dedication of its Members speaks volumes about the detail and thoughtfulness expressed in the State Plan. That said, **let me acknowledge the Task Force's recognition of the importance of including a "dignity" element in reference to "the environments" we create around persons with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia** – a concept we spoke about in several meetings during the Interim.

In particular, I am referring to Recommendations #1, *regarding a statewide information and referral system for people living with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, their caregivers, and their families to enable them to connect with local case managers and support services, with the expectation that the approaches, content, and messaging within these resources helps promote well-being and preserve dignity*; and #19 *where those living with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, along with their care partners, can feel and experience the respect, dignity, support, value, and inclusion in everyday community life.*

But I think you should know me by now; there's one other nagging observation I made in reading the State Plan. I do not believe it's over-stated to suggest the Task Force consider taking a closer look at Recommendations # 9 (Long-term care related) and #16 (Volunteer training); my recommendation for consideration: each of these Recommendations add a formal "dignity orientation" component to the training that has the look and feel of the ***"helps promote well-being and preserve dignity and the can feel and experience the respect, dignity...in everyday community life.***

Again, thank you for the opportunity to participate in TFAD Meetings as the President of **Nevada's Silver Haired Legislative Forum**. This is an issue we as a Legislative Forum must face head on; it's not an easy topic for most. The work of your Task Force is most appreciated!

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