

Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease

2025 Annual Report

(Prepared: January 2026)



The Department of Health and Human Services
NRS 439.508

TASK FORCE ON ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

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Director, Sanford Center for Aging, School of Medicine & Professor, School of Public Health
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Benjamin Challinor Mendez, Vice Chair (July 2025 – present) & Chair (July 2024 – June 2025)
Nevada Director of Public Policy and Advocacy
Alzheimer's Association Northern California and Northern Nevada Chapter

LeeAnn Mandorino, Vice Chair (July 2023 – June 2025); Resigned from TFAD (June 2025)
Program Director of Education, Outreach and Advocacy
Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health

Members:

Cecilia Alonso (July 2025 – Present)
Regional Coordinator / Tribal Liaison
Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division

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Neurologist
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Volunteer and Support Group Facilitator
Humboldt Volunteer Hospice and Alzheimer's Association of Northern Nevada

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Executive Director
Neighborhood Network of Northern Nevada (N4)

Marilyn Dondero Loop (November 2022 – Present)
Senator, Nevada State Legislature

Stacey Dubowitch (July 2025 – Present)
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Community Advocate

Duy Nguyen (February 2024 – Present)
Assemblyman, Nevada State Legislature

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Director
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Introduction

The term ‘dementia’ refers to a collection of symptoms related to a person’s cognitive function, including, but not limited to, changes in their memory, problem solving, reasoning and capacity to fulfill activities of daily living. While Alzheimer’s disease is the most common cause of dementia-related symptoms, comprising about 70 percent of all dementia diagnoses, approximately 130 different causes of dementia have been identified, including Vascular dementia, Lewy Body dementia, Frontotemporal dementia, and many others. Often, people living with dementia are experiencing the effects of more than one cause, referred to as ‘mixed dementia.’ For the purposes of its work, the Task Force on Alzheimer’s Disease references ‘dementia’ as the overarching condition being addressed.

According to the Alzheimer’s Association’s 2025 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures, it is estimated that 7.2 million people are living with dementia in the US. Further, one in nine people ages 65 and older (11%) are living with dementia, with dramatic increases as one ages from 65 – 74 (5%) to 85+ (33%). In addition to those estimated to be living with dementia, based on research cited in the Alzheimer’s Association report, it is estimated that 22% of people ages 65 and older are living with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI), which is a form of cognitive decline that may serve as a precursor to later dementia.

There is an increased prevalence of Alzheimer’s among minority and underserved populations, specifically Black and Latino communities. Older Black Americans are twice as likely to develop Alzheimer’s and other dementias than older Whites, while older Latino Americans are one and a half times more likely to develop.

In Nevada, the Alzheimer’s Association report estimates that there were approximately 54,900 people living with dementia in 2020, and further estimates that this increased to 64,000 by 2025, representing a 30.6% increase over five years as the population of Nevada continues to rapidly age. This rate of growth is the third fastest among all US states, behind only Arizona (33.3%) and Vermont (30.8%). The impact of this large population of people living with dementia in Nevada is, and will continue to be, significant in many ways, including disenfranchisement and stigma of those living with dementia, challenges among family members and other care partners in effectively supporting people living with dementia, capacity of long-term supports and services, declines in general workforce productivity, lack of dementia-related knowledge and understanding among healthcare providers, inappropriate prescribing of harmful anti-psychotic medications, and strains on the healthcare workforce and financing (i.e., Medicare and Medicaid). The costs of these impacts are immeasurable.

With this explosive need in Nevada, the Task Force on Alzheimer’s Disease (TFAD) contributes timely and essential information as well as insights through its State Plan, Annual Reports, and bi-monthly meetings. On a continuous basis, TFAD provides focused and crucial information about current and needed policies, practices, and programs to the Nevada State Legislature, as well as to units of the Nevada Departments of Human Services and Nevada Health Authority, including the Aging and Disability Services Division, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, and Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, which work daily to serve the needs of people living with dementia across all of Nevada.

History

During the 2011 Legislative Session, both the Assembly and Senate recognized the need to focus special attention on Alzheimer's disease and unanimously supported the passage of Assembly Concurrent Resolution 10 (ACR 10), sponsored by Assemblywoman Debbie Smith. This resolution directed the Legislative Committee on Health Care to create a task force to develop a "State Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease" and to submit the State Plan to the 2013 Session of the Nevada Legislature. This plan would serve as a blueprint for identifying specific actions that could pave the way for the development and growth of a high quality and comprehensive support system for individuals affected by dementia.

In 2012, Assemblywoman April Mastroluca, Chair of the Legislative Committee on Health Care, appointed members to the ACR 10 Task Force, to be Chaired by Senator Valerie Wiener. The ACR 10 Task Force met five times and considered more than 100 recommendations, submitted by independent work groups, experts, and the public. During the final meeting in October 2012, the ACR 10 Task Force approved the "State Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease" (2013), which contained 20 recommendations. These recommendations addressed: access to services; quality of care and quality of life; and public awareness regarding the disease. Though the 2013 State Plan did not have a specific end date, the ACR 10 Task Force recognized the need to set clear timelines and strategies to achieve and revise the recommendations, as necessary.

Chair Mastroluca also reserved a committee Bill Draft Request (BDR) to be used by the ACR 10 Task Force, and the Task Force used this BDR for Assembly Bill 80 to create the Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease (TFAD). During the 2013 Legislative Session, with the passage of Assembly Bill 80, the Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease (TFAD) was created within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), under the Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD). TFAD includes 10 members, who represent diverse backgrounds and interests in Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, including medical professionals, care partners, service providers, legislators, educators, policy developers and the general public.

Though TFAD is only statutorily required to meet quarterly, TFAD members determined that the issues are so important that it is essential to meet bi-monthly. Continuing with its responsibility for developing, reviewing, and revising the State Plan, TFAD submitted its revised "State Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease" (2015) to both Governor Brian Sandoval and State Legislature in January 2015. This State Plan included 20 recommendations, including suggested indicators and potential funding sources. TFAD also submitted an updated State Plan (with 16 recommendations, suggested indicators, and potential funding) to the Governor and Legislature in January 2017.

Following the submission of the 2017 State Plan, TFAD began its work on the 2019 State Plan. TFAD adopted the 2019 State Plan in January 2019. The 2019 State Plan included 17 recommendations; four of these were new recommendations. Also, the 2019 State Plan included Appendix A (three recommendations retired from the 2017 State Plan) and Appendix B (Resources).

In January 2021, TFAD finalized and submitted its 5th edition of the State Plan, which included a total of 15 recommendations. Two recommendations from the 2019 plan were retired to the appendix ('Affordability' and 'Care Pathways'). Further, one recommendation was reframed from 'Guardianship' to 'Awareness of Dementia and the Legal Profession.' In addition, the 2021 State Plan included a special section in its introduction covering key aspects of appropriate disaster preparation in the context of dementia. This section was precipitated by the significant impact of COVID-19 on older adults and people living with dementia but is framed more generally to provide guidance in managing future crises of any nature.

Throughout 2022, TFAD worked to develop its 6th State Plan, which was approved at its meeting in January of 2023 and submitted to Governor Joe Lombardo and the Nevada State Legislature in advance of the 2023 Legislative Session.

In 2024, the TFAD continued its work on updating the 7th State Plan for the 2025 Legislative Session. Additional details on the development and content of this new 2025 – 2026 State Plan are provided below. In preparation for the 2025 Legislative Session, the TFAD approved the creation of a Legislative Subcommittee that would review upcoming bills and help inform the full TFAD on what actions it should take.

In terms of TFAD leadership, in mid-2019, Senator Valerie Wiener (ret.) stepped down as Chair of TFAD (July 2019), and Dr. Peter Reed, TFAD Vice Chair from 2013 – 2019, was elected as Chair. In September 2019, Tina Dortch was elected Vice-Chair, serving in this role until July 2022, when Charles Duarte was elected Vice Chair. In July of 2023, Peter Reed stepped down as Chair, and Phil Kalsman was elected Chair and LeeAnn Mandarinio was elected Vice-Chair. In July of 2024, Benjamin Challinor Mendez was elected as Chair and LeeAnn Mandarinio continued to serve as Vice-Chair. In 2025 (current leadership), Dr. Peter Reed was elected Chair and Benjamin Challinor Mendez was elected Vice Chair.

Legislative Overview

Though TFAD has no authority to introduce legislation directly, it has a long history of developing recommendations suggesting clear policy directions and implications. These recommendations can be picked up by various legislators and committees and introduced in the Legislative Session. Further, TFAD regularly identifies and monitors bills that are relevant to Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

During the **2013 Legislative Session**, three recommendations in the 2013 State Plan were supported by both the Legislature and Governor Sandoval. These include:

- *Assembly Bill 80* created the Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease within the Department of Health and Human Services.
- *Senate Bill 86* required the Department of Health and Human Services to allocate money for certain programs (e.g., respite care) relating to persons with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.
- *Senate Bill 69* proposed revision to the requirements governing Advance Practitioners of

Nursing, including independent licensure of APNs. Though the bill was proposed, the ACR 10 Task Force did not proceed. However, Assembly Bill 170, which proposed revisions related to the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) did receive legislative support. This measure, which addressed the essence of SB 69, allowed APRNs to establish independent practices to provide better access to care.

Two years later, during the 2015 Legislative Session, six of the 20 recommendations in the 2015 State Plan were addressed legislatively, and two bills and one resolution were passed:

- *Senate Bill 177* addressed the continuity of caregiver support for persons being discharged from hospitals or moved to other facilities. This was major legislation for AARP and incorporated key provisions addressed in the 2015 State Plan.
- *Senate Concurrent Resolution 2* addressed four of the 20 recommendations in the 2015 State Plan, which strongly “urged and encouraged” specific training for medical care providers and first responders regarding care for persons with Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia.
- *Senate Bill 196* included a section that authorizes health licensing entities to allow continuing education credits in education related to Alzheimer’s disease.

During the **2017 Legislative Session**, TFAD followed many legislative measures that directly or indirectly affect persons with Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia. Of particular interest, however, was the passage of *Senate Bill 92*, sponsored by TFAD member Senator Joseph Hardy, which removed the sunset on the Task Force on Alzheimer’s Disease. The Task Force is grateful for the overwhelming legislative and gubernatorial support and for Governor Sandoval’s decision to select Senate Bill 92 as the first bill of the 2017 Legislative Session to sign into law.

During the **2019 Legislative Session**, TFAD identified and monitored the progress of a range of bills that were related to Alzheimer’s disease. A complete review of Alzheimer’s-related bills was created for TFAD by Homa Woodrum, (formerly) Attorney for the Rights of Older Persons, Persons with a Physical Disability, and Intellectual Disability or a Related Condition, Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division. In addition, TFAD Chair, Senator Valerie Wiener provided testimony related to two bills relevant to the recommendations in the *Nevada State Plan to Address Alzheimer’s Disease* and the work of TFAD, including: SB 121 – Fiduciaries for Persons with Dementia; and SB102 – Education Funding for APRNs. (*See the TFAD 2021 Annual Report for a complete list of legislative activity during the 2019 session*).

Key legislative successes in the **2021 Legislative Session**, monitored by TFAD, include passage of AB 216: Medicaid coverage for CPT code 99483. In addition, other policy-related successes noted by TFAD included updating the TFAD State Plan to include “Healthy People 2030” in the introduction, aligning our state-level work with federal priorities; and Nevada being a recipient of BOLD Act funding to bring a public health approach to Alzheimer’s awareness in the state.

In the **2023 Legislative Session**, there were several bills TFAD had an interest in that passed and which related to specific recommendations included in the 2023-2024 State Plan including:

- *Assembly Bill (AB) 119*, relating to adult maltreatment; creating the Vulnerable Adult Fatality Review Committee; providing for the review of deaths resulting from or relating to adult maltreatment; requiring the Committee to perform certain other duties relating to the investigation and prevention of adult maltreatment; providing access for the Committee to certain documents; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.
- *Assembly Bill (AB) 208*, relating to Medicaid; establishing a program to provide structured family caregiving to certain recipients of Medicaid; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.
- *Senate Bill (SB) 45*, relating to Medicaid; establishing the amount of the personal needs allowance provided to certain recipients of Medicaid who reside in facilities for skilled nursing; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.
- *Senate Bill (SB) 298*, relating to residential facilities for groups; prescribing certain grounds for disciplinary action against a residential facility for groups; prohibiting certain persons from serving as the representative of a resident of a residential facility for groups for purposes relating to an involuntary discharge; imposing requirements governing certain contracts between a resident and a residential facility for groups; prohibiting the involuntary discharge of a resident of a residential facility for groups except for certain reasons; imposing requirements governing the procedure for such an involuntary discharge; authorizing a resident or a representative of a resident to request a hearing concerning such an involuntary discharge; requiring the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman to provide certain assistance concerning such a discharge; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.
- *Senate Bill (SB) 315*, relating to persons with disabilities; prescribing certain rights for persons with disabilities who are receiving certain home and community-based services and persons who are aged receiving such services; prescribing certain rights for pupils with disabilities; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Bills which were passed that TFAD would like to revisit include:

Assembly Bill (AB) 414, relating to powers of attorney; adopting the Uniform HealthCare Decisions Act; repealing various provisions relating to powers of attorney for health care.

Bills which were not passed that TFAD would like repropose and more actively supported by our legislative representative include:

- Assembly Bill (AB) 167, sponsored by Assemblywoman Claire Thomas, proposed the funding, development and launch of a Dementia Care Specialist program to embed dementia- specific care managers in each of Nevada's counties, enabling direct supportive services for people living with dementia, including those living in Nevada's rural communities. This bill is directly aligned with TFAD 2023-2024 State Plan recommendation #5 focused on creating a Dementia Care Specialists (DCS) Program in Nevada.
- Senate Bill (SB) 297, Nevada Memory Network, sponsored by the Committee on Health and Human Services, proposes the funding, development and launch of an integrated network of memory assessment clinics, coupled with training for primary care providers on cognitive assessments and referrals of patients for comprehensive dementia diagnostic services. This bill was directly aligned with TFAD 2023-2024 State Plan recommendation #4 on Outreach to Primary Care Providers.

At the start of the 2025 Legislative Session, the Governor's Recommended Budget revealed a structural deficit, requiring the Legislature to balance the budget by making cuts across various programs. As a result, most proposed programs introduced as bills were unlikely to receive the necessary funding to pass. This included **AB337**, a bill actively advocated for and monitored by TFAD, as it was derived directly from key recommendations in the Nevada State Plan on Alzheimer's Disease.

AB337 aimed to:

- Establish county-level dementia care specialists to assist Nevadans living with dementia in accessing needed services statewide.
- Create the Nevada Memory Network, an integrated system of dementia clinical diagnosis and support hubs.

Despite initial approval by the policy committee, the May 1st Economic Forum confirmed a budget shortfall, resulting in the bill's failure to advance. Both initiatives had previously appeared as separate bills during the 2023 Legislative Session (**AB167** and **SB297**) but were combined in 2025 to improve their chances of success. The need for these resources, both statewide and at the county level, remains critical, and TFAD is hopeful for stronger legislative support in 2027.

Additional Legislative Actions Monitored by TFAD:

- **Budget Increase:** A \$292,000 annual increase to ADSD's Planning, Advocacy, and Community Grants (101-3278) for the state Dementia Respite Program.
- **AB382** (Sponsor: Tanya Flanigan) – Proposed mandating coverage of all biomarker testing for all diseases, including dementia. (Did Not Pass)
- **AB388** (Sponsor: Assemblymember Selena LaRue Hatch) – Proposed mandating 12 weeks of paid family leave for all private employees. (Vetoed)
- **SB329** (Sponsor: Senator Edgar Flores) – Mandated dementia training for EMS providers. (Passed and Enacted)

TFAD will monitor the implementation of SB329 throughout 2026 and continue evaluating legislative measures to support during the 2027 Legislative Session.

Duties of TFAD (NRS 439.5085)

The Task Force shall:

- a) Develop a State Plan to address Alzheimer's Disease.
- b) Monitor the progress in carrying out the State Plan.
- c) Review and revise the State Plan, as necessary.
- d) Develop and prioritize the actions necessary to carry out the State Plan.
- e) Research and review any other issues that are relevant to Alzheimer's disease; and
- f) On or before February 1 of each year, prepare and submit a report to the Governor and to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to the Legislature concerning its findings and recommendations.

Current Status of the State Plan

TFAD elected a new Chair and Vice-Chair starting July 1, 2023. Under this leadership, TFAD Began the revision and updating of the “State Plan to Address Alzheimer’s Disease and Other Dementias: 2025-2026” at a meeting on January 9, 2024. Starting on July 1, 2024, TFAD elected a new Chair to continue the revisions. While the 6th State Plan included 17 separate recommendations, the 7th State Plan retired 3 of the 17 recommendations. The remaining recommendations were grouped into four categories to combine the expertise, efforts, and depth of the subject matter. The recommendations will be the action items to advance the four objectives to successful policy and programmatic outcomes.

- Objective 1: Help direct persons living with dementia to needed resources.
- Objective 2: Optimize health care for persons living with dementia.
- Objective 3: Formalize protections and rights for persons living with dementia.
- Objective 4: Provide structured, competent, and comprehensive dementia education.

Moving forward, action items may be combined to meet the goals of the objective creating comprehensive policy proposals complete with indicators and potential funding sources. Also, the 2025-2026 State Plan includes Appendix A listing ‘retired’ recommendations (which include the 3 newly retired recommendations.) and Appendix B (Resources).

Continuing in 2025 from previous years, TFAD reviewed and discussed the bills of interest from the 2025 legislative session (noted above). Discussion continues on the worthwhile bills that were not passed with focus on how TFAD can be more proactive in making the case for future objectives.

Policy issues TFAD intends to revisit include:

- The Nevada Memory Network
 - The Nevada Memory Network is a system of care that starts with training primary care providers across the state to screen patients for cognitive decline and refer them to specialized Memory Assessment Clinics (MACs) for a comprehensive evaluation and diagnosis. Additionally, the NMN would provide for Dementia Care Navigators who will work with the primary care provider, the patient, their caregiver, and family to connect them with community support.
- A Dementia Support Specialists (DSS) Program
 - Dementia Support Specialists (formerly Dementia Care Specialist) provide support for individuals with dementia, support for families and care partners, and training for community-based organizations, making them more dementia-friendly and dementia-capable.

Additionally, the Legislative Subcommittee, after reviewing the recommendations, have identified three legislative actions that the TFAD will continue to pursue:

- Recommendation #10 Choice in Care and Care Settings
 - Forming an expert committee to develop proposed regulatory requirements for the standardization of the assessment and admission process for all locked dementia care settings to ensure the right to receive care in the least restrictive environment is honored and upheld.
- Recommendation #11 Dementia Training

- Requiring dementia training for first responders, of which should include law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians, and firefighters.
- Recommendation #12 Caregiver Support
 - Increasing the respite voucher amount, along with the amount that is appropriated from the State General Fund.

TFAD Activities—2025

TFAD met five times in 2025: January 14, March 11, May 13, July 8, and November 18, with the Legislative Subcommittee meeting once on February 26. Key agenda items included hearing presentations from state and community experts on specific topics related to the recommendations included in the 2025-2026 State Plan. Along with other key agenda items, the following presentations and presenters were heard:

January 14 Full TFAD

- Review and Approval of the TFAD’s 2025-2026 State Plan
- Review and Approval of the TFAD’s 2024 Annual Report
- Discussion of SB 78: Proposed Revised Provisions relating to Boards, Commissions, Councils and Similar Bodies.

February 26, 2025 Legislative Subcommittee

- Discussion of SB 78: Proposed Revised Provisions relating to Boards, Commissions, Councils and Similar Bodies.
- Discussion of 2025 Bills and Bill Draft Requests to bring forward for discussion to the full TFAD.

March 11 Full TFAD

- Presentation on Choice in Care and Care Settings relative to the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program
 - Marie Coe, State Long-Term Care Ombudsman

May 13 Full TFAD

- Elections for Chair and Vice Chair
- Presentation on Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure (BOLD) Act
 - Casey Venturini, Engagement Coordinator, Dementia Friendly Nevada
 - Phil Kalsman, Community Executive Director, Alzheimer’s Association
 - Taliman Afroz, Population Health and Wellness Manager, Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health

July 8 Full TFAD

- Presentation on the Dementia Support Specialist Program and related funding from the US Administration for Community Living
 - Cheyenne Pasquale, Planning Chief, Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division

- Miles Terrasas, Social Services Program Specialist, Nevada Aging and Disability Services Division
- Presentation on the Hospital to Home Care Transitions Program
 - Betty Russell, Clinical Director, Nevada Senior Services
 - Gricelda Soto, Hospital to Home, Nevada Senior Services
- Presentation on the Final Report on the 2025 Legislative Session Relating to Dementia
 - Ben Challinor, Nevada Director of Public Policy, Alzheimer's Association

November 18 Full TFAD

- Presentation on the Behavioral and Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
 - Dr. Wei Yang, Professor and Senior Associate Dean, UNR School of Public Health
- Presentation (written brief) on the Office of Minority Health Cultural Competency Activities

Conclusion

The members of the Nevada Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease appreciate the opportunity to serve the State in this very worthwhile endeavor. The TFAD also acknowledges the need for continual monitoring the progress of the recommendations within the State Plan. This is to ensure that the needs and the quality of life of those the TFAD members represent are not only being met but being enhanced. The creation, review, and revision of the *State Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias* (2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023, 2025) is an essential and relevant tool for addressing vital issues, crafting viable recommendations, and recognizing needed solutions and resources for people living with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, their families, and their care partners.

Throughout the 2025 - 2026 State Plan, the TFAD continues to explore key practice and policy ideas to build a network of support that enables continuous improvement in quality of life for people living with dementia and their care partners. The reintroduced proposals outlined in the new State Plan provide a foundation of well-informed ideas to promote these goals but can only succeed if action is taken to implement them and monitor progress. Thus, TFAD encourages all relevant State and local agencies, along with community-based health and social service providers to review the State Plan, identify recommendations aligned with their organization's core strengths and pursue achieving an impact on behalf of Nevadans living with dementia. Nevada should take pride in its proactive efforts to plan for the inclusion, respect, care, and support of people living with dementia.

In their ongoing commitment to these special needs in our state, TFAD members will proudly continue their work to develop service delivery and policy goals more fully; identify and pursue funding for recommendations; and recommend necessary statutory changes that are essential to the success of the ever-evolving *State Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias*.