

2009-2010 state public policy priorities

An estimated 210,000 Michigan citizens have Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. Considering the profound impact on caregivers and knowing that 2-3 caregivers are impacted per person with dementia, we estimate over half a million people, if not more, are impacted directly by Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. The Alzheimer's Association provides information and leadership in the public policy arena with the goal of improving policies and programs affecting Michigan residents who live with Alzheimer's disease and their families.

Maintain State Funding for Key Dementia Programs

Retain the Department of Community Health line items which support the Alzheimer's Association, specifically:

- Mental Health/Substance Abuse Services Administration & Special Projects, Section 103, the line item *Mental Health Initiatives for Older Adults*, which funds Alzheimer-specific programs for respite and adult daycare, caregiver training, and multicultural training.
- Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention and Health Promotion, Section 112, the line item for the *Alzheimer's Information Network*, which funds information, assistance, and support programs and a statewide toll-free Helpline.

Educate legislators about the need for dementia-specific health and safety programs and the cost-effectiveness of these programs.

Improve the Quality of Care for Individuals with Alzheimer's Disease

The Alzheimer's Association supports the work of the Long Term Care Commission's Workforce subcommittee and its efforts to revise and update the CNA curriculum. We also support the passage of state laws and regulations that require pre-employment and continuing education dementia training for persons working in long-term care facilities and for persons working for home and community-based care services. Specifically, we advocate for:

- Training for all staff in dementia care issues and practices.
- A minimum of 8 hours of pre-employment training for all nurses, CNAs and direct care staff with an additional 8 hours of annual continuing education training (the 8 and 8 rule).
- A minimum of 4 hours of pre-employment training for all other staff (including administrators) with 2 hours of annual continuing education training.
- A monitoring mechanism to ensure compliance, such as a CNA registry.
- Portability of completed training among employment sectors.
- A formal certification of training programs by a lead state agency for licensing or its designate.

Support Long-Term Care Reform

- Support new and ongoing efforts to restructure Medicaid financing in Michigan so that recipients can use funds in the most appropriate care setting for their situation. Ensure that these funds will follow Medicaid recipients whether they choose to receive care through home or community-based services or in other long-term care settings.
- Fully fund Michigan's Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver program (MIChoice) and remove the income eligibility cap.
- Improve and enhance services for persons with dementia within all newly proposed Medicaid systems, including single-point-of-entry and person-centered planning.

For additional information about Alzheimer's disease:

Helpline: 1.800.272.3900

Connects to the chapter office nearest you

or

visit the Alzheimer's Association online at www.alz.org.

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