

Dear Members of the NAPA Community Advisory Committee:

Thank you for your efforts to develop a national plan to address the growing crisis of Alzheimer's Disease. As an elder law attorney who has worked for many years with low income caregiving families in diverse ethnic communities, I understand the urgency of your work. I applaud your efforts to be both comprehensive and realistic in the development of this plan. My own work with Alzheimer's families began through a program called El Portal – a Latino Alzheimer's project that was funded through the Alzheimer's Disease Supportive Services Program (ADSSP), once call the Alzheimer's Federal-State Matching Grant Program. Later I worked with Asian caregivers through another ADSSP—funded program, the API Dementia Care Network. Like many other elder care professionals in this community, this grant brought me into the Alzheimer's cause where I have worked for over 20 years.

As I look over the plan, I am concerned that I do not see any reference to this program. I believe it is the only federally-funded program that uniquely targets dementia patients and their families with support and education services. Specifically, this is a program that could help to fund the part of the plan devoted to populations disproportionately affected by AD and populations facing care challenges, such as racial and ethnic minorities (Strategy 2H). It could also be referenced in section 2.C.2 as it definitely enhances assistance to people with AD and their caregivers. This program supports and educates people with the disease and caregivers, a significant concern addressed in the plan.

I have heard that there is a possibility that funding for the worthy program may be eliminated and that it has already been reduced. I urge you to use the NAPA planning process to assure that this program remains in place and continues to help develop services for under-served, at-risk populations. It may not be a perfect program but it is the ONLY federal program supporting this work for patients with AD and their families.

Thank you for attending to my feedback. I hope it will strengthen our plan to prepare for the public health crisis that is Alzheimer's Disease.

Sincerely,

Janet Morris, JD

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