Moving Forward Faster to Provide Care Together

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RESEARCH SUMMIT ON DEMENTIA CARE
Building Evidence for Services and Supports

We Didn’t Make It

5 Million Americans

www.nia.nih.gov
www.alzheimers.org
We Didn’t Make “It” Either

- Medicare spends $30 billion to provide care for 400,000 persons with ESRD
- Medicare and Medicaid spend $250 billion for 5 million persons with AD
- US has more dialysis centers than dementia specialists

Accessed at: www.usrds.org

Face Reality

- Number of families suffering from Alzheimer’s disease will double
- Technology will not save us from needing to provide hands-on care
- Family caregivers will provide the majority of care

www.nia.nih.gov
Pivot to Plan B

Build a home-based system of care for persons with Alzheimer’s disease based on a network of persons with Alzheimer’s disease and their family caregivers who are supported by community service providers and collaborating with medical service providers.

Pray for Potatoes with a Hoe in Your Hand

- Jump start social networks
- Redesign the home
- Move resources to the community
- Intensify demand for palliative care
- Provide career for formal caregivers
- Generate demand for the new system

Millet 1861
Elephants in the Room

- Unclear boundaries between the medical system and social system
- Uncertainty in balancing personal autonomy with safety
- Conflict over who should pay for the services families actually need
- Data-driven vs culture-driven decision-making

Thinking Outside the Box

- Systems of care must build from the foundation of family caregivers
- Research must be coupled with political and community activism
- New research to learn how to support family caregivers