

LTSS Subcommittee Report

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Brain Health As You Age:
**You Can Make
a Difference!**



ACL LTSS Awareness

- Advisory Council recommended: “Target the dementia awareness campaign...toward: (a) recognition and diagnosis of cognitive impairment and Alzheimer’s Disease; (b) the importance of talking to a health care provider about worsening memory problems; and (c) talking with family members and health care providers about preferences for care.”
- These recommendations will guide ACL’s new campaign on cognitive aging and cognitive impairment. ACL recognizes the need to educate and gain “buy-in” from health care and other providers due to their major role in addressing concerns about cognitive impairment and diagnosing dementia.
- An interagency group will help guide the campaign. Group includes the Administration for Community Living, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), the National Institute on Aging (NIA), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

ADSSP- NYUCI

- Minnesota translated the intervention into community settings.
- Outcomes:
 - Decreased depression and stress among caregivers
 - Delayed institutionalization related to participation in greater number of counseling sessions
- Challenges:
 - Completing the 6 counseling sessions
 - Obtaining complete outcomes data
- Projected cost estimates show savings to MN through less use of nursing homes over 15 years
- Articles appear in Health Affairs’ Dementia-themed issue of April 2014

ACL Alzheimer's Disease Initiative – Specialized Services and Supports

- 2014 grants to states and other entities having or working within dementia-capable systems
- Purpose to enhance services around:
 - People living alone with dementia
 - People with intellectual or developmental disabilities and dementia
 - Behavioral symptoms of dementia
- FOA still under development, no specifics can be shared

Indian Health Service

- REACH pilot focusing on Native veterans with dementia and/or their caregivers
- 6 public health nurses (PHNs) from 3 sites have completed certifications and are delivering services
- Follow-up with PHNs to assess effects
- Interest in second wave of pilot
- Exploring resources to take program beyond veterans

Disaster Preparedness

- Webinar on April 16
- Addressed the special considerations of family caregivers of children with special needs, older frail individuals and those with dementia
- Offered suggestions for how programs can better serve caregivers in times of disaster
- Viewed by over 300 people and nearly 500 dialed in to listen
- Will be available shortly online