

**Governor's Commission on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**December 15, 2008**

Announcements/Updates:

Beth Rizzon (HowardCenter); Mary Ellen Spencer (Converse Home) and Jeff Maker (Alzheimer's Association) were appointed to the Commission by Governor Douglas in December. The Home Health and Senate positions are still open. Additional recruitment efforts will be made by Commission members in January.

Christina Cosgrove reported on the events offered at the Vermont Veterans' Home that were supported by grant funding from the Southwestern VT Council on Aging. Five presentations were offered to the community. Turnout was lower than in previous years. The Expressive Arts Show which highlighted artwork of veterans with dementia was the most widely attended.

Dee Rollins reported there has been an increase in the number of persons with dementia at Barre Project Independence Adult Day and will give a report on the numbers across Adult Day Centers statewide at the next meeting. Current reimbursement for Adult Day services does not cover the costs of providing care. Adult Days are concerned about budget cuts.

Jeff Maker reported that Maggie Lewis and Laura Corrow attended a training course provided by the National Alzheimer's Association and are now certified Master Caregiver Trainers.

Cliff Singer informed the group that planning is underway to open a facility in Washington Cty to serve individuals with severe neuropsychiatric symptoms including those with severe behavioral issues and dementia. Cliff is also involved in establishing a geriatric/dementia outpatient program at Washington County Mental Health.

Review of October Minutes:

The names of Christina Cosgrove's graduate students, Michelle Graham and Albert DeWitt, will be added to the minutes.

Two typographical errors will be corrected.

Alzheimer's Disease Demonstration Grant Update

Maria reported that the dementia trainings provided in October were well-attended and positive feedback was received from participants. Commission members requested that Maria email notification of future training opportunities.

The no-cost extension for the grant will be ending December 31. Grant activities are wrapping up. This includes printing of the *Vermont State Plan on Dementia Executive*

*Summary and the Vermont Developmental Services Resource Guide on Aging and Dementia.* Both documents, as well as the complete *Vermont State Plan on Dementia*, will be available on the Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent website <http://dail.vermont.gov> . The *Home Safety Program* administered by the Vermont Alzheimer's Association did not receive the number of requests anticipated for home safety assessments. As a result, the sub-recipient grant was amended to allow use of remaining funding to deliver radio and television public service announcements to increase awareness about wandering behavior in dementia and the *Alzheimer's Association Safe Return* program.

#### Tax Check-off

Patsy inquired whether the Commission members want to re-submit the Tax Check-off bill to the Legislature. Patsy stated the Legislature previously expressed an interest in the bill and might pass it if re-submitted. The Commission members unanimously supported re-submission of the bill and Patsy will start the process.

#### State Plan on Dementia

Jeff Maker indicated that the VT Alzheimer's Association could become the "working arm" to implement the dementia plan and is able to devote some staff time to the project. Commission members agreed this would be an effective way to ensure work on the dementia plan proceeds. Cliff Singer volunteered to assist Jeff.

Commission members are continuing to expand membership of the sub-committees by recruiting community providers and other interested parties. Sub-committees will meet before the next Commission meeting and report back on their progress to the Commission.

As indicated above (see ADDGS update), copies of the State Plan on Dementia will be available in print form and on the DAIL website.

#### Next meeting

January 26, 2009; Weeks 1C