Alzheimer’s Disease State Public Policy: What is it and why do we need it?

Council of State Governments Health Policy Academy

Aging and Alzheimer’s Disease: Emerging Issues and Policy Solutions

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Reaching the Masses
National Priorities for State Policy

- Comprehensive State Government Alzheimer’s Disease Plans ("State Plan")

- Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Act ("UAGPPJA")
• Campaign launched in 2006

• 19 published State Plans

• 13 task forces
Common State Plan Recommendations

- Health system capacity
- Public awareness
- Research
- Caregiver support
- Care and case management
- Workforce training
- Home and community based services
Specific state plan recommendations

• Provide sufficient public finding and resources for adult day services for all persons with Alzheimer's disease, and require that these services are affordable for those who need them

• Establish an office for Alzheimer's disease within state government

• Promote Alzheimer's disease personal safety awareness, measures and guidelines to 5000 persons with the disease and their caregivers

• Work with hospice to promote a model of care for late stage dementia patients who do not meet current hospice criteria for terminal illness of six months
Adult Guardianship

• Court appoints an individual to serve as legal decision maker for another adult

• Person must be unable to make decisions for him or herself due to incapacity or disability

• Guardian makes decisions pertaining to the individual’s health, well-being, and economic interest

• Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias impact a person’s ability to make decisions
The Issue of Jurisdiction

• Guardianship issues are handled in state court

• The United States has 55 different guardianship systems makes problems of jurisdiction frequent

• Problems frequently arise because the individual has contacts with more than one American state
  • Snowbirds
  • Transferred or long-distance care-giving
  • Wandering
Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Act

• Establishes a uniform set of rules for determining jurisdiction

• Establishes a framework for state court judges in difference states to communicate with each other

• Does NOT make any substantive changes to adult guardianship law
Updated: October 3, 2011

Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act

Enacted UAGPPJA. 30 (includes DC)
Legislation Pending. 1
No Legislation currently filed. 20

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Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Act

Developed by the Uniform Law Commission

Supported by:

Alzheimer’s Association
American Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging
Conference of Chief Justices
Conference of Elder Law Attorneys
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
National Guardianship Association
National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws
State Policy Issues

Coordinated National State Policy Priorities

• Dementia Training
• Medicaid
• Public Health and Surveillance
QUESTIONS???
Learn More Today

For more information on your state’s Alzheimer plan efforts or to begin work on one in your state, please contact:

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