

REPORT TO DAIL ADVISORY BOARD

January 8, 2015

Presented by: Will Rowe, Coordinator of Mental Health and Aging Programs

The following is a list of some key work efforts related to aging and mental health, dementia, and housing services for seniors.

MENTAL HEALTH AND AGING:

1. Elder Care Clinician Program
2. Vermont Suicide Prevention Coalition
3. Governor's Commission on Successful Aging
4. Self-neglect Initiative
5. DAIL/DMH dialogues

DEMENTIA:

1. Dementia Caregiver Resource Lists
2. Dementia Respite Program Results Based Accountability (RBA) Plan
3. Work with the Governor's Commission on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders
 - a) Proposal to expand organizational membership to add SASH, Center on Aging, the Vermont Department of Health
 - b) Commission working in 3 Workgroups: 1) Leadership and Public Education; 2) Early Detection and Early Intervention; 3) Expanding Caregiver Support
 - **Leadership and Public Education:** Efforts focused on 1) Legislative Hearing on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders; 2) Town Hall Meeting; 3) Professionally planned media campaign
 - **Early Detection and Early Intervention:** Efforts include:
 - Several strategies to target primary care practices to promote cognitive function screening
 - Promotion of "Medicare Annual Wellness Check-up"
 - Promotion of cognitive screening with providers such as SASH, Elder Care Clinicians, Home Health Agencies, AAAs

- Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia topic presentations at major meetings and conferences
 - Development of a major campaign to have cognitive function be identified as the "6th Vital Sign" for people over the age of 65
- **Caregiver Support Expansion:** Strategies and activities include:
- Design and implementation of a comprehensive statewide "dementia caregiver survey"
 - Production and distribution of caregivers local resource lists (sample handout)
 - Promotion of "Memory Cafes"
 - Production and distribution of "Pathway for Caregivers"—a navigation tool for caregivers and people with dementia following screening
4. SASH Person Centered Dementia Care Training and Archive: Through support from DAIL, SASH implemented an educational program for professionals and family members on memory care. The series, which is archived at: <http://sash.forumchitchat.com/post/archived-memory-care-education-initiative-training-recordings-6840390>, includes the following topics:
- *Addressing Reversible Causes of Cognitive Impairment*
 - *Assessing and Promoting Better Sleep in the Elderly*
 - *In-home Cognitive Assessment (includes Driving Safety Interventions)*
 - *Know the 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's Disease and What to Do About Them*
 - *Safe In-home Medication Management*
 - *Building Rapport: A Person-Centered Approach to Dementia Care*
 - *A Person-Centered Approach to Responding to Challenging Behaviors and Safety Concerns*
 - *Case Studies in Dementia*
5. EssentiALZ Certification. DAIL supported staff from 6 Adult Day Programs to participate in the Web-based Certification training which included topics such as: Alzheimer's and Dementia; Understanding Behaviors; Communication; and Person Centered Care.

HOUSING:

1. The Administration for Commerce and Community Development contracted with Bowen National Research to produce a housing needs assessment for the state. (see key findings handout) This survey supports "the development of senior-oriented housing and efforts to enable seniors to age in place."
2. In an effort to support tax credit support for the development of housing for seniors, DAIL has been working with AHS to modify language in the "Qualified Allocation Plan" specific to the definitions of "Special Needs" and "frailty."