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**Report to**  
**The Vermont Legislature**

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**Alzheimer's Disease Coordinator Position**  
**In Accordance with Act 113 of 2022, Section 5**

**Submitted to:** Senate Committee on Health and Welfare  
House Committee on Human Services

**Submitted by:** Jenney Samuelson, Secretary, Agency of Human Services

**In Collaboration**

**with:** Department of Disabilities, Aging and  
Independent Living  
Vermont Department of Health

**Report Date:** December 15, 2022



**Report to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare and  
the House Committee on Human Services  
December 15, 2022**

**Submitted by the Agency of Human Services, with collaboration from the  
Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living and Vermont  
Department of Health**

**Purpose of this Report**

[Act 113 of 2022](#), Section 5, requires that the Agency of Human Services (AHS) submit a plan to the legislature to fund, within existing budgets, grants, or other external funding sources, a permanent Alzheimer's Disease Coordinator position to be shared between the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) and the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living (DAIL) for the purpose of planning, public education, and coordination.

**Creating a Position**

AHS and its departments support the intent of the bill to provide additional capacity in Vermont to address the needs of people and their families and caregivers impacted by dementia. However, it is the position of AHS that the legislature must authorize positions and appropriate funding for positions. AHS does not currently have an appropriate vacant position or unallocated general fund dollars to create an Alzheimer's Disease Coordinator position, and permanent positions cannot be created through grants or external funding sources. If the legislature were to appropriate funding for a position, AHS would recommend Pay Grade 24, Step 2, which would cost approximately \$100,886 (salary and benefits) for one full-time equivalent.

**Current State Efforts to Address Dementia**

VDH currently has a federal cooperative agreement through the Centers for Disease Control called Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure to address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias with a goal of strengthening the State's public health approach by using evidence-based strategies to increase data collection, raise public awareness, reduce dementia risk, increase early detection and support dementia caregivers. As part of this grant, VDH, DAIL and community partners developed a new 2022-2025 Vermont Action Plan on Alzheimer's Disease, Related Dementias and Healthy Aging: [hpdp-brain-health-action-plan.pdf \(healthvermont.gov\)](https://www.healthvermont.gov/hpdp-brain-health-action-plan.pdf).

More information about BOLD can be found here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/aging/funding/php/index.html>.

To manage this grant, VDH has a limited-service grant-funded position through September 2023. However, this position's work is focused on required grant activities and is not able to meet the intent of the position outlined in Act 113. In 2023, VDH will be applying for the next BOLD grant, which will focus on implementation of the Action Plan, other grant deliverables, and to continue the associated limited-service position to manage these.

DAIL provides support to people living with dementia and their caregivers through Older Americans Act services and the Choices for Care Long-Term Care Medicaid program. This includes information, referral and assistance, case management, access to caregiver education, support groups, respite and counseling, personal care, companionship, Adult Day, enhanced residential care and nursing home care. Information on the range of services available can be found at <http://www.asd.vermont.gov>. There is no current position within DAIL to meet the intent of Act 113.

Act 113 also calls on VDH and DAIL to provide easily accessible public education materials about Alzheimer's and related dementias for patients, families, caregivers and healthcare providers. This work is underway at <https://www.healthvermont.gov/wellness/brain-health> with materials being created and disseminated as resources allow.

### **Summary**

AHS, DAIL and VDH agree with the intent of the Act 113. However, there are not positions or funding available at either department to fulfill the duties of a permanent Alzheimer's Coordinator.