

**RI Alzheimer’s State Plan Commission
Caregiver Task Force
Tuesday, October 9
4:00-5:00 pm
Elmhurst Extended Care**

DRAFT MINUTES

Kathy McKeon Doreen Putnam David Creamer	Bader Samrout Sarah Brown Marea Tumber
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Kathy McKeon distributed the Caregiver Alliance Awareness month “Kick-off” information. The event will be held Monday, November 3, 2:00pm in the State Room at the State House. Kathy distributed nomination form for the Caregiver of the Year award. There will also be awards for Professional Caregivers and an employer award for Best Practices in the Workplace.

The programs that are run through the Diocese are supplements to those that have 3rd party reimbursement. The federal government does cost share for respite care, but Medicaid does not. The Diocese has a Carebreaks program that is run from a pool of funds that is a mix of federal and state funds. It is for RI residents only.

Kathy described the “Powerful Tools for Caregivers” training program. They now have 16 licensed class leaders. The program teaches all kinds of care for adults, not just for those with cognitive impairments. The program teaches people to have an action plan. For example, if a caregiver identifies that a 15-minute walk each day would be beneficial, then they can work on finding a way to make that happen. There are 60-minute and 90-minute versions of the training, depending on the needs of the class and workplace constraints. Maria Barros is doing a training at Nursing Placement. The training grant was renewed by DEA. The goal is to have 4-8 master trainers available to teach new leaders. Once someone is licensed, they can run classes on his or her own. The goal is to fill respite gaps that are not met by other agencies. There is a list of 12 core competencies for clergy. Clergy may face many different situations in their duties, such as domestic violence and sexual assault, and the training helps them in these situations.

The group discussed the possibility of meeting at the Point/211 in November. They could give us an overview of their program and the types of calls that they receive. Kathy will look into setting this meeting up.

The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ARDC) is the formal name of the Point. They use a warm referral system at the Point, where the person who answers the call keeps the caller on the line while they are connect them to another agency and makes the introduction. They have a grant from DEA, but their federal budget has been reduced, and they have had layoffs.

Kathy would like every caller to receive the Caregiver Guide. Linnea Tuttle has some funding for a reprint. There is also the electronic version of the guide, so perhaps callers could be mailed a postcard with the link on it.

The Diocese also does a bereavement series. Perhaps this group should look into the merits of a caregiver bereavement group. A caregiver suffers a unique kind of loss. Doreen mentioned that hospice has a caregiver support group that follows people for 18 months. It would be great to have a centralized events calendar for support groups. Doreen mentioned a SE Massachusetts calendar that would put it up, but she was unsure how many people visit the site.

The group discussed the meeting time. This meeting was not well attended in the 4-5pm time slot. We will look into booking an earlier time for the next meeting.

The next meeting is **Thursday, November 13, 2-3pm at Elmhurst Extended Care, 50 Maude Street, Providence.**