



Georgia Department of Human Services
Division of Aging Services

Georgia Alzheimer's & Related Dementias (GARD) State Plan Update

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stronger families

FOR A STRONGER GEORGIA



History of GARD

- Advocates and stakeholders discussed the need for a State Plan on Alzheimer's/dementia for several years
- Plan signed by Governor Deal in 2014
- Established GARD State Plan Task Force O.C.G.A § 31-8-300
- Work groups were established around areas or sections of the Plan
- GARD Coordinator was hired in 2016 in DAS
- Work groups were “revitalized” and continued work



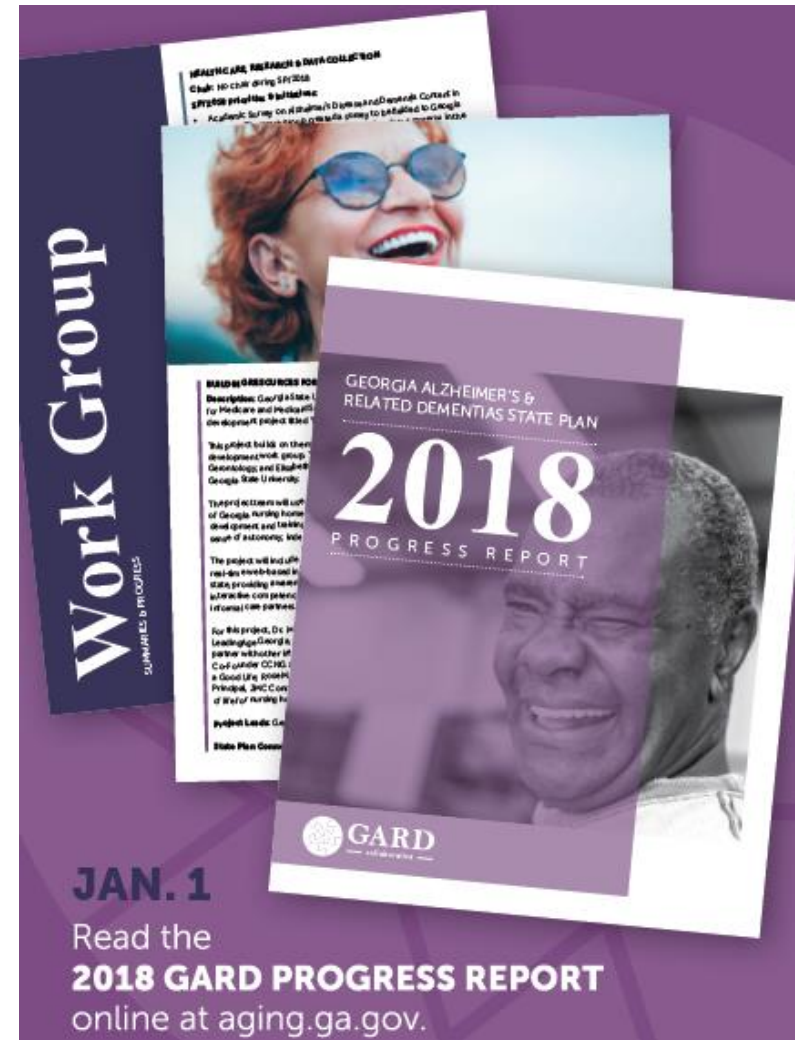
Senate Bill 444 & Advisory Council

- O.C.G.A § 49-6-92
- 2018 Legislative Session; in effect July 1, 2018
- Re-established Advisory Council for GARD
- Provides structure and guidance to GARD
- Council met twice in 2018 and will meet quarterly in 2019



2018 Progress Report

- Covers State Fiscal Year 2018 highlights of goals, accomplishments, and activities
- Find it on the front page of www.aging.ga.gov



Work Groups

- 6 current work groups:
 - Workforce Development
 - Service Delivery
 - Outreach & Partnerships
 - Healthcare, Research, & Data Collection
 - Public Safety
 - Policy
- Experts and stakeholders from academia, government, nonprofit, healthcare, and those with lived experience serve on work groups



Workforce Development

- **State Plan Goals:**

- Determine the size, competency, and capacity of the existing workforce
- Develop a dementia-capable, culturally competent workforce
- Develop a direct-care workforce education and training curriculum
- Encourage dementia-specific training for emergency room staff, first responders, and protective services
- Develop a workforce retention group

- **Current Work:**

- Dementia Competency Guide
- Healthcare Provider education module for person-centered care
- Data collection in Assisted Living



Service Delivery

- **State Plan Goals:**

- Assess statewide capacity on a regional basis
- Research and adopt person-centered best practices in facility type and scale
- Promote the use of person-centered facility design
- Improve consumers access to needed services and information
- Improve care transitions of persons with dementia by providing guidance and tools for discharge planners
- Examine and respond to transportation challenges
- Ensure the providers offer high-quality services to persons with dementia

- **Current Work:**

Surveyed providers on training barriers and needs, Georgia Gerontology Society expanded survey

Examine how to define/establish “effective service delivery system” criteria for the state

Collaboration with Workforce Development as needed



Outreach & Partnerships

- **State Plan Goals:**

- Raise public awareness about dementia
- Educate the public and organizations to become more “dementia friendly”
- Expand Georgia’s capacity to address the needs of persons with dementia through strategic partnerships and resource sharing, the leveraging of existing funding, and accessing new sources

- **Current Work:**

- Brain Strong flyer—encourage brain health
- Faith community outreach
- Young onset outreach



Healthcare, Research & Data Collection

- **State Plan Goals:**

- Promotion of early and accurate diagnosis
- Development and usage of surveillance data
- Public awareness of dementia as a chronic disease
- Support for people with dementia and caregivers

- **Current Work:**

- Assist other work groups with data & evaluation needs
- Survey colleges/universities in the state on dementia content in curricula



Public Safety

- **State Plan Goals:**

- Ensure the safety of persons with dementia who are at risk of abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation
- Reduce rates of injury among persons with dementia

- **Current Work:**

- Capacity subcommittee: Examine current policies and structure for determining decision-making capacity
- Injury subcommittee: Yellow Dot Initiative; new project focus on violent death including suicide



Policy

- Reactive to other work group needs as policy issues arise
- Supported SB 444 during 2018 Legislative Session
- May Recommend in 2019 Session
 - Public awareness campaign
 - Increase in Home & Community Based Services funding
 - Urging resolution on guardianship



Activities Outside GARD Work Groups

- Georgia Memory Net
- Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving: Dealing with Dementia
- Yellow Dot Initiative
- Second Wind Dreams Virtual Dementia Tour
- Dementia Friendly Georgia Efforts





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