

## **Southern Maine Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (ADI) Grant**

**Grantee:** Southern Maine Agency on Aging, awarded by the Administration for Community Living

**Duration:** 10/1/14 through 9/30/17

**Partners:** Maine Medical Center (MMC) Geriatric Center; Alzheimer's Association, Maine Chapter; Community Partners, Inc.; National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices (NTG); University of Southern Maine; others to be added during project period.

**Goal:** Provide a more comprehensive and sustainable network of training, referral, and person-centered services to support individuals living with ADRD and their family caregivers.

### **Provision of effective supportive services to persons living alone with ADRD:**

- Family Caregiver Specialist embedded at MMC's Geriatric Center to assist those recently diagnosed and their caregivers;
- Train Meals on Wheels assessors and volunteers who go into homes to identify and refer for Agency assistance those who may be living alone with Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD);
- Develop a Community Health Worker and Volunteer Support pilot program;
- Outreach to medical providers to increase their use of SMAA Community Links® e-referral system;
- Outreach to community gatekeepers and organizations to identify and refer people living with ADRD.

### **Improvement of programs and services dedicated to individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID) aging in to ADRD or those at high risk:**

- Open and operate two state-of-the-art therapeutic Adult Day Centers serving people with ID as well as those with ADRD;
- Collaborate with Community Partners Inc., a service provider for people with ID, and other organizations serving those with ID aging into dementia to promote identification and referral;
- Become a Regional Trainer for the NTG evidence-informed Dementia and ID curriculum.

### **Delivery of behavioral symptom management training and expert consultation for family caregivers:**

- SMAA Adult Day Centers will serve as implementation sites for the evidence-based Adult Day services-Plus (ADS-Plus) designed by Dr. Laura Gitlin of Johns Hopkins University. ADS-Plus offers one-on-one support by a social worker to family caregivers of Center members, and has been proven to lengthen the time people with ADRD remain living at home;
- Additional evidence-based Savvy Caregiver I & evidence-informed Savvy Caregiver II classes will be provided to family caregivers living in underserved areas of southern Maine;
- Adult Day Center staff will be trained in the evidence-informed curriculum being designed specifically for ADS staff by the Agency and with the involvement of Drs. Ken Hepburn of Emory University and Catherine Piersol of Thomas Jefferson University. This curriculum includes a caregiver / staff support component.

In addition, we will conduct an evaluation with Dr. Linda Samia of the University of Southern Maine; convene work groups to inform and advise program design and implementation; and develop a sustainability plan.

**Katlyn Blackstone, Project Director, 207-396-6552, [kblackstone@smaaa.org](mailto:kblackstone@smaaa.org)**

**Liz Weaver, Project Manager, 207-396-6578, [lweaver@smaaa.org](mailto:lweaver@smaaa.org)**