



Joint Interim Committee to Study Alzheimer's Disease

Department of Aging and Disability Services

Deputy Commissioner Jon Weizenbaum

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The Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) provides access to long-term services and supports for older individuals and individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities.

This presentation focuses on:

- The services and supports provided by the state, all of which may be used by individuals with Alzheimer's and other dementias.
- Supports available to informal care givers, such as respite.

Medicaid Services

Medicaid services provided through DADS and the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) :

- Institutional entitlements
- Medicaid entitlement community services
- Medicaid waivers
- STAR+PLUS (HHSC)
- Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) (El Paso, Amarillo, Lubbock)

Non-Medicaid Services

Non-Medicaid services provided through DADS:

- Federally-funded services:
 - Title XX (Social Services Block Grant)
 - Older Americans Act
- State-funded services:
 - In-Home and Family Support

Access to Services and Supports

Access to services and supports can be obtained through several entities, known as DADS “front doors.”

- DADS Community Services regional offices
- Local authorities for services to persons with intellectual disabilities
- Area agencies on aging (AAAs)

Alzheimer's Certification for Assisted Living Facilities

DADS is also responsible for licensing and certification of long-term care facilities such as nursing facilities and assisted living facilities (ALFs).

Any licensed ALF that advertises, markets or promotes itself as providing specialized care for persons with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders must be certified by DADS.

- DADS Alzheimer's certification requires:
 - Staff training/continuing education
 - Adequate staffing levels
 - Adequate security and monitoring, which may include locked units

Caregiver Issues

Relatives and friends who provide unpaid care, known as informal caregivers, are the backbone of the long-term services and supports system.

- 2.7 million caregivers of all ages live in Texas
- A growing number of caregivers are also providing care for their grandchildren or other relatives' children

Respite Services

- Respite provides temporary relief to caregivers from their duties. For example, a respite program could offer in-home care for an aging individual to allow the person's spouse to go grocery shopping or to the doctor.
- Numerous state and federally funded programs offer respite services. These include:
 - All DADS Medicaid 1915(c) waivers
 - STAR+PLUS
 - Older Americans Act services administered by AAAs

Lifespan Respite Care Program

H.B. 802, 81st Legislature, Regular Session, 2009, directed DADS to create the Lifespan Respite Care Program.

- The program expands the availability of respite services for caregivers of individuals of any age with any chronic health condition or any disability, who are not eligible for respite services through other programs.

DADS is working closely with community partners to:

- Develop volunteer and emergency respite resources
- Use consumer-directed model/vouchers where possible
- Target isolated, rural and minority caregivers

Lifespan Respite Care Program

S.B. 271, 81st Legislature, Regular Session, 2009, directed DADS to:

- Conduct activities to raise public awareness of the needs of informal caregivers
- Expand the agency website to include information regarding best practices of informal caregiver support
- Collect data on informal caregivers and provide referrals to support services
- Implement the use of standardized caregiver assessment tools in:
 - Medicaid long-term benefit programs
 - Area agencies on aging programs
- Report to the legislature due in December 2012