***California’s State Plan for Alzheimer’s Disease: An Action Plan for 2011-2021*** would not exist but for the early support of four key foundation partners. Over the past several months, under the leadership of Secretary Diana Dooley and Assistant Secretary Kiyomi Burchill, the Health and Human Services Agency, on behalf of the Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Committee, has partnered with the Alzheimer’s Association to re-engage each of the original State Plan funders. A series of meetings took place in December and January, with summaries of each meeting included below.

**The SCAN Foundation**

3800 Kilroy Airport Way, Suite 400

Long Beach, CA 90806

Phone: (888) 569-7226

<http://www.thescanfoundation.org/>

Sarah Steenhausen, MS, Senior Policy Advisor, joined the Agency meeting on December 3. Ms. Steenhausen described several of the major initiatives already underway with The SCAN Foundation and committed to following up to see if there is any potential for synergy between the ideas presented by the team (below) and existing SCAN projects.

As a direct result of California’s Cal MediConnect program, health plans are receptive to integrating medical care with home and community-based services. This provides a unique window to create person-centered care models. With the foundation’s support, we seek to:

* *Develop dementia competency and care management capacity within health plans participating in California’s Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) to improve identification, assessment and treatment of cognitively impaired older adults dually eligible for Medi-Cal and Medicare through workforce development focused primarily on health plan care managers and auxiliary medical personnel.*
* *Integrate cognitive impairment into person-centered care models to improve outcomes for other chronic conditions such as diabetes and heart disease.*

**The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation**

2730 Wilshire Blvd

Santa Monica, CA 90403

Phone: (310) 449-4500

<http://www.thegilbertfoundation.org>

Lora Connolly, director of the California Department of Aging, and Debra Cherry and Susan DeMarois representing the Alzheimer’s Association, met at the American Society on Aging with Liz Schwarte, MPH – Program Officer of the Alzheimer’s Disease and Caregiving grantmaking initiative. Ms. Schwarte was pleased to hear the progress on the State Plan (as described below) but noted her foundation will not re-open new funding opportunities until 2016. Currently, they are focused on aging and the arts. She suggested as a next step possibly presenting to The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation board.

Alzheimer’s disease is very much a women’s issue, with incidence rates for Alzheimer’s and related dementias being more prevalent among women, and with women serving as care providers in the home and in the workforce. With the foundation’s support, we seek to develop current, California-specific data to raise public awareness about the impact of these conditions on women. Activities include:

* *Update California’s 2008 State Data Report with a strategic focus on women, Alzheimer’s disease and caregiving in California. Unveil findings in collaboration with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the legislative women’s caucus.*
* *Raise public awareness of the burden of Alzheimer’s disease and of caregiving on women through investment in the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)-approved Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System question on caregiving administered by the California Department of Public Health.*

**Archstone Foundation**

401 E. Ocean Blvd., Suite 1000

Long Beach, CA 90802

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Fax: (562) 495-0317

[www.archstone.org/](http://www.archstone.org/)

Joseph F. Prevratil, J.D. – President and CEO, intended to join the December 3 meeting in Sacramento but was unable to travel at the last minute. Mr. Prevratil welcomed Lora Connolly and Debra Cherry to his office in Long Beach following the meeting, and invited his senior grants team to join him. The focus of the conversation is described below; Archstone Foundation is particularly interested in partnering with another foundation on a joint project or initiative (TBD).

California needs a well-trained workforce with greater knowledge of Alzheimer’s disease. Only 50% of people with this condition ever receive a diagnosis. Our state’s frontline workforce is untrained or minimally trained, with requirements well below that of cosmetologists or dog groomers. From physicians to long-term care workers, there is dire need for training and guidelines for care that are rooted in evidence, informed by research or based on best practices. With the foundation’s support, one of the following strategies could be implemented:

* *Form and fund an evidence-based, research-informed consensus workgroup to update California’s physician practice Guideline for Alzheimer’s Disease Management*
* *In response to AB 1570 (Chesbro), signed into law by Governor Brown on September 28, there is a need to develop low-literacy, multi-lingual training resources to ensure an Alzheimer’s proficient, culturally competent workforce in California’s 6-bed Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs)*

**The California Endowment**

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Los Angeles, CA 90012

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[www.calendow.org](http://www.calendow.org)

Dr. Ross, The California Endowment President and CEO, sent his representative, Richard Figueroa, Director Health and Human Services, to the December 3 meeting at Agency. Mr. Figueroa was unfamiliar with the State Plan and saw limited potential for new activities but identified some overlap with TCE’s proposed funding for Medi-Cal activities. He also suggested reaching out to the California Health Care Foundation in Sacramento. The group discussed the following topics with TCE:

California has been a national leader in producing at state Alzheimer’s disease plan. Now we need to deliver on this plan and its recommendations. With funding from the Foundations, we will seek to:

* *Explore a public-private partnership similar to Minnesota’s ACT on Alzheimer’s model which serves as a central clearinghouse for best practices in dementia detection, diagnosis and care*
* *Build dementia capable neighborhoods within TCE’s 14 targeted communities to foster aging and place and to avoid premature institutionalization*