# **Master Plan on Aging**

# **Meeting the Needs of People Living with Dementia**

## **The Statistics**

* Currently 670,000 people living with cognitive impairment in CA
* That number is projected to increase to 840,000 by 2025- a 25% increase
* 1.6 million family caregivers in California delivering:
  + 1.8 billion of hours of care
  + $23.2 billion value of that care
* Alzheimer’s is the most expensive disease in America (New England Journal of Medicine)
* Cost to Medicaid to care for people with dementia $3.776 billion- expected to grow by 36.4% by 2025

## **Addressing the Needs of Individuals with Dementia and Their Families**

Many of the needs of the older adult population also apply to those with dementia however, there are specific needs for this population that must be considered and addressed in the plan. Dementia is a progressive disease therefore the needs of individuals and families will change throughout the course of the disease. The plan must recognize this reality and ensure that California is prepared to support these individuals and families throughout their journey.

### *Continuum of Care*

* Integrated medical, mental health and LTSS
* Reimbursement rates that adequately reflect the level of care needed by people with dementia
* Funding to support access to adequate LTSS – currently too expensive for many
* Assessment for LTSS services/hours must take cognitive impairment into consideration.
* Review current statute and administrative rules regarding Assisted Living and Skilled Nursing Facilities to support people staying in the community for as long as possible. If the appropriate services and supports are available to enable someone to remain in assisted living, the laws/rules should allow for that.
* Ensure access to high quality skilled nursing facilities
* Adequately fund Ombudsman program

### *Caregiver Education and Support*

* Skills building caregiver education that is culturally and linguistically appropriate
* Increased access to respite care
* Strengthen Adult Day Care and expand access
* Work Policies that support caregivers
* Access to affordable health care for caregivers
* Tax credits for family caregivers

### *Workforce*

* Develop strategies to recruit, support and retain staff
* Examine scope of practice regulations

### *Training*

* Service providers- both facility-based and community based (facility based- training helps to decrease over proscribing of psychotropic medications)
* First responders (police, fire, EMT)
* APS
* Mental Health providers
* Public transportation
* Financial institutions

### *Transportation*

* Door to Door not just Curb to Curb
* Subsidies for the caregiver as well as the person with dementia (i.e. Metro passes)

### *Safety*

* Elder Abuse
* Financial Abuse/Fraud Prevention
* Statewide system to coordinate emergency services when someone with dementia wanders beyond Silver Alert
* Emergency preparedness that addresses the needs of people with dementia

### *Live Alones*

* Adequately fund APS and Public Guardian
* Provide training to APS and Public Guardian
* Social engagement programs

### *Final Thoughts*

* Need to help middle-income Californians.
* Quality of life – dementia capable communities, opportunities to remain engaged in the community (i.e. volunteering)