



**NOVEMBER 20, 2009
COUNCIL MEETING
12-2 P.M.
COLORADO HEALTH INSTITUTE, COMMUNITY ROOM
MEETING NOTES**

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS

Appointed Members

- Paul Bell
- Lynn Betz-Seybold
- Kristina Bomba
- The Honorable Betty Boyd
- Bill Bridgwater
- Steven Cavender
- Bill Dahlquist
- David Harris
- Shelley Hitt
- JoAnna Miller
- Linda Mitchell
- Barbara Prehmus
- The Honorable Jim Riesberg
- Howard Roitman
- Michael Wasserman
- Deb Wells

Guests

- Linda Daniel, Daniel Public Policy Group

Colorado Health Institute staff

- Pam Hanes, President and CEO
- Amy Downs, Director for Policy and Research
- Tasia Sinn, Research Fellow

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Pam Hanes, President and CEO, Colorado Health Institute (CHI)

PUBLIC SAFETY INFORMATION SESSION

Linda Mitchell, Alzheimer's Association of Colorado, and Kristina Bomba, Bureau of Investigation, Colorado Department of Public Safety, presented information regarding public safety programs to help protect individuals with Alzheimer's disease.

Linda described safety risks within the living quarters of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and some ways that families can mitigate potential dangers. She discussed the safety issues that can be associated with driving and opportunities for families to address these concerns with health care professionals and testing programs such as the Triple A program.

Wandering is one of the most significant risks to individuals with Alzheimer's disease—nearly 60 percent of people with Alzheimer's wander at some point during the course of the disease. Approximately half of wanderings lead to injury if the individual is not found within 24 hours. Several programs have been designed to reduce the risk of wandering and ensure a safe return if wandering does occur.

Linda described MedicAlert + Safe Return, a national emergency response service for individuals with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia. Individuals in the program are issued a personalized ID bracelet or medallion. Family members or caregivers can report a missing person to the hotline and initiate a response from local Alzheimer's Associations and law enforcement agencies.

Comfort Zone is another program to address the issue of wandering, allowing families and caregivers to set-up a perimeter and if the enrollee wearing his/her bracelet leaves the designated area the family is alerted. Similarly, Colorado Life Track uses GPS technology to locate a missing person that is wearing the appropriate locator device.

Kristina Bomba summarized the Senior Alert program in Colorado. Like Amber Alert, Senior Alert sends a message to a list of volunteer e-mail subscribers, including media and law enforcement agencies, alerting them of a missing person who is age 60 or older who has a verified mental impairment.

REVIEW OF OTHER STATE PLANS RECOMMENDATIONS

Amy Downs led the Council members through a matrix of recommendations compiled from other states' Alzheimer's disease plans.¹ The matrix includes four subject areas: unpaid caregivers, public safety/law enforcement, state agency and legislative administrative roles, and research and data collection. Other subject areas will be added to the matrix as appropriate.

The Council discussed the public safety portion of the matrix and discussed possible recommendations that could be included in the state plan. Due to impending deadlines, members of the Council agreed to create workgroups that would address formal and informal services, quality and research, and public awareness and public safety. Each workgroup will develop recommendations and action items to be included in Colorado's state plan that will be presentation to the full Council for its approval. (Detailed descriptions of each workgroup were sent by electronic mail on January 4, 2010).

¹ Other state plans are available at http://www.alz.org/join_the_cause_state_plans.asp.

NEXT MEETING

The January meeting will address issues related to quality of care and will include quality measures developed at the state and federal levels as well as those developed by the Alzheimer's Association.

The next meeting will be held on January 15, 2010, from 12:00 – 2:00 (lunch will be provided). The meeting will be held at CHI's office. Please note that CHI offices have moved. The new location is:

303 E. 17th Avenue, Suite 930
Denver, CO 80203

CHI's phone number remains the same (303) 831-4200.