

Willoughby, Adam@CDA

From: Henry Morgen <hjmla@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2019 9:45 PM
To: EngAGE@CDA
Subject: Public Feedback regarding Master Plan for Aging

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on how to help Californians age with dignity, safety and health in our state. As an advocate for the Alzheimer's Association, I am especially focused on being sure we address the needs of both those who are experiencing dementia and their caregivers. Here are three areas that I am especially interested in ensuring that you take into account:

1. Increase opportunities for Californians with Alzheimer's to receive a diagnosis at the earliest signs of cognitive impairment

It has become more and more clear that early detection of cognitive impairment helps people and their loved ones deal with the necessary lifestyle changes that come with this disease. Ideally it could alert people to changes in their medication or habits that could have caused the impairment and therefore could allow the impairment to be reversed. In general awareness is a powerful tool to help plan for any potential issues that may arise should the impairment increase. This will lead to the best and longest quality of life for the individuals effected.

2. Improve the network of care so that persons with dementia and their care partners can easily access local services and supports

In many cases people live alone or have no close loved ones or friends that can be of direct assistance as they age. There needs to be a way for people who are developing dementia to know how to access support services in their community. It would be good to find a way for those without a close network of friends or loved ones to have the community at large be able to offer this assistance when they see someone who is alone and exhibiting cognitive impairment. In other words, widespread public education in the same way we communicate "see something, say something" should be part of your plan.

3. Ensure that all Californians have access to quality care through public investment that helps families with the high financial and emotional cost of Alzheimer's

Both of my parents passed away with Alzheimer's Disease. Fortunately, while we were not wealthy, we had sufficient funds and resources to provide the care they needed for the last decade or each of their lives. As you know, there is a large segment of our fellow Californians that do not have resources of this type. They depend on public assistance for anything beyond their regular day to day living. It is important that these families and individuals have access to safe and supportive care as they progress through this disease or until a cure is found.

Thank you for taking these issues into consideration as you develop a plan.

Henry J Morgen
323/246-6241 (cell)
hjmla@sbcglobal.net