

**Testimony  
Department of Human Services  
Human Services Committee  
Representative Alon Wieland, Chairman  
October 4, 2012**

Chairman Wieland, members of the Human Services Committee, I am Judy Tschider, Program Administrator with the Aging Services Division of the North Dakota Department of Human Services. I am here today to provide information about the Dementia Care Services Program administered by the Aging Services Division.

The overall purpose of the Dementia Care Services Program is to inform people with dementia and their caregivers about dementia care issues and supportive services, which, in turn, may decrease depression, increase family support, delay nursing home placement, and reduce inappropriate use of health services.

As previously reported in May, the initial contract was awarded to the Alzheimer's Association in the amount of \$962,085 and covered a period of 18 months (January 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011); the contract was renewed with the appropriation of \$1.2 million for this biennium. Expenditures for services provided through June 30, 2012 total \$589,575.

**Persons with Dementia Served (July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012)**

- 345 persons with dementia were served
  - 197 live in rural communities
  - 142 live in urban communities
  - 6 unknown
- Of those served, 259 persons with dementia live at home
  - 48 of these individuals live alone
- 92 veterans participate in the program

- 49 live in rural communities
- 27 live in the Fargo and West Fargo area
- 16 live in other urban communities

### **Caregiver Assistance**

- 616 caregivers received over 1,000 contacts from program staff
- Of the 345 persons with dementia, 314 now have a designated power of attorney
- Health care directives were developed for 160 of the 345 persons with dementia
- 107 caregivers attended at least one education class on dementia/Alzheimer's disease issues after working with the Dementia Care Services Program

### **Community Education and Outreach**

The Dementia Care Services Program has provided:

- Over 780 community education and outreach opportunities reaching over 4,300 participants
- Three educational sessions for law enforcement agencies training 33 individuals

### **Estimated Long-Term Care/Health Care Cost Avoidance**

The Alzheimer's Association subcontracts with the University of North Dakota (UND) Center for Rural Health to study and report outcomes of the Dementia Care Services Program, including estimated cost avoidances for long-term care and health care.

UND reports an estimated cost avoidance of \$14,167,102 in long-term care costs. This is based on information gathered from 125 caregivers who had been receiving services for two or more weeks. Caregivers were asked how likely it would be that they would place the person with

dementia in long-term care. UND used the caregiver responses to identify a delay in out-of-home long-term care placement for 35 caregivers.

Avoided health care costs (hospital, emergency room, ambulance, and 911 calls) were also reviewed. The results indicated a health care cost savings of about \$85,944 linked to participation in the Dementia Care Services Program.

I thank you for your time today.