

**Testimony
Department of Human Services
Long-Term Care Committee
Representative Gary Kreidt, Chairman
July 14, 2010**

Chairman Kreidt, members of the Long-Term Care Committee, I am Linda Wright, Director of the Aging Services Division of the Department of Human Services. Today, I am providing you with an update on the Dementia Care Services program. Due to the short period of time that the program has been implemented, outcomes are not available to be reported at this time.

The Alzheimer's Association reports that they were fully staffed by March 15th and then proceeded to train the care consultants who began providing services in April. Since April, the five regional care consultants that have been hired by the Alzheimer's Association to carry out the dementia care services program have been very busy networking with other agencies and organizations in their respective service areas to coordinate efforts, develop referral processes, and assure that services are not duplicated. Meetings have been held with Aging Services and Medical Services state staff and County Social Service Board case managers and Older Americans Act contract entities to assure coordination with home and community based services.

The following information was provided by the Alzheimer's Association.

- 648 individuals have received training and 1222 individuals have received information about the dementia care services program through June 30, 2010.

- Most of the referrals have come from other professionals.
- Anywhere from 1 to 30 resources have been provided to callers.
- The majority of persons served to date have been split between urban or large rural communities and rural areas.
- The provider of care in most cases is the adult daughter or the wife.
- The majority of the Alzheimer's victims served live in their own home.
- A total of 274 individuals who have Alzheimer's disease or related dementia have been assessed by the program.

The subcontract between the Alzheimer's Association and the UND Center for Rural Health was signed this month. The Center for Rural Health will provide process and outcome evaluation, including data analysis of long term care and health care costs avoided through the services provided by the Dementia Care Services program.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them at this time.