THE MASSACHUSETTS LIFESPAN RESPITE PROJECT

A GRANT PROGRAM FUNDED BY THE ADMINISTRATION ON AGING

HOST AGENCY: DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
THE MASSACHUSETTS LIFESPAN RESPITE PROJECT

- Three Year Grant
- Grant period is September 2010-August 2013
- MA Department of Developmental Services is lead agency
- Collaborative project with MA Executive Office of Health and Human Services and Executive Office of Elder Affairs
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- Other key project partners include (but are not limited to):

  MA Family Caregiver Support Program
  MA Aging and Disability Resource Consortia
  National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Greater New England Chapter
  MassHealth (Medicaid) Office of Long Term Care
  MA Developmental Disabilities Council
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Goals of Grant:

- Develop a statewide respite coalition consisting of family caregivers, respite providers, and members of the aging, disability, and health services networks
- Develop comprehensive, accessible directory of respite services
- Improve training and recruitment of respite providers
- Develop strategic plan and list of policy recommendations
FEDERAL LIFESPAN RESPITE CARE ACT
PL 109-442

Passed in 2006
Funded for the first time in Federal FY 2009
The Act authorizes funds to states to:
- Identify, coordinate and build on federal, state, and local respite resources and funding streams
- Help support, expand and streamline planned and emergency respite, provider recruitment and training, and caregiver training
CONCEPT OF LIFESPAN RESPITE

According to PL 109-442, Lifespan Respite Programs “provide coordinated systems of accessible, community-based respite care services for family caregivers of children and adults with special needs”
“Special need” is defined broadly as anyone who requires care or supervision to meet their basic needs, to prevent physical self-injury or injury to others, or to avoid placement in an institutional facility. For children under 18, care needs would be beyond those required of children generally.
PRELIMINARY WORK IN MA - 2009

In early 2009, began doing outreach to other stakeholders in Massachusetts and nationally

- Statewide Aging and Disability Resource Consortia (required grant partners)
- Representatives of previous Respite Coalition
- Key people at MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs
- Director of ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center
MASSACHUSETTS 2010 LIFESPAN RESPITE SUMMIT

- Daylong conference held in March 2010
- Over 100 providers and family caregivers attended
- Keynote speaker – Jill Kagan, Director of the ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center
FY10 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

- Another round of federal funding was made available in FY10, providing for grants to another 12 states
- Thanks to the energy and enthusiasm generated by the Summit, we were able to put together a broad based work group to complete an application for this funding
- We were one of the 12 states awarded approximately $200K over 3 years to develop/expand the Lifespan Respite project
FY10 GRANT AWARD

Structure of grant work team:

- Project Director: Amy Nazaire
- Project Coordinator: Joan Kelly Rafferty
- Grant Advisory Committee
  - Representatives of DDS, ADRC, Elder Affairs, National MS Society, MassHealth, Children’s Hospital Boston, EOHHS, MA Developmental Disabilities Council
- New England INDEX/Rewarding Work Resources, Inc./Care.com are key partners
- Massachusetts Respite Coalition Mailing list currently at approximately 200 individuals/agencies
CURRENT GRANT ACTIVITIES

- Completing Family Caregiver Needs Assessment Report
- Developing Regional Coalitions
- Planning for November 2012 Caregiver Conference
- Planning for Sustainability after the Grant Period Ends
- Developing Respite Directory
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