

# 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

# THE MASSACHUSETTS LIFESPAN RESPITE PROJECT

- 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

# THE MASSACHUSETTS LIFESPAN RESPITE PROJECT

## **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”

# CONCEPT OF LIFESPAN RESPITE

“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

# Contact Information:

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