



ACT's Evolution and Structure: 2017 to 2018

May 2018

The structure of ACT on Alzheimer's (ACT) is changing. This evolution is consistent with the long-term plan for ACT, which has been to build sustainability in the community and shift the ongoing implementation efforts of ACT to local partners committed to this work.

Background: ACT's evolving structure

- ACT on Alzheimer's was formed in 2011 to advance Minnesota's state plan for Alzheimer's disease by developing tools and resources that all community sectors could adopt and implement.
- Formed as a collective impact collaborative, ACT was intended to provide the "how to" for others to build and sustain a dementia-ready/capable Minnesota.
- ACT was established to complete short-term development goals and work. It was never expected to operate as an ongoing, stand-alone organization.
- Use of the ACT on Alzheimer's name and brand will continue (see trademark/copyright information, page 5).

What is ACT's focus in 2018?

In 2017, ACT on Alzheimer's began a transition from developing to implementing dementia-specific community engagement and health care practice change tools and resources. This process continues in 2018 as the tools and resources nest within committed ACT partners.

How is ACT operating in 2018?

- The ACT staff role (Emily Farah Miller) is in place through May 2018, with a focus on technical support and coordination of ACT-related community and health care work. Beginning June 1, 2018, inquiries can be directed to maaa@metroaging.org.
- During 2018, ACT's operation will be facilitated by ACT's Core Team, the Alzheimer's Association and Minnesota Area Agencies on Aging.
- Because ACT will no longer have a committee framework, the Health Care Leadership Group will no longer convene, but the work will continue as activities are embedded in other organizations and structures.

What You Should Know for 2018

- Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging will maintain existing content and features of the [ACT on Alzheimer's website](#), including all ACT-developed tools and resources.
 - ACT webinars/tutorials/videos will remain on ACT's YouTube page.
 - ACT's Facebook page will be facilitated and monitored through May.
- Minnesota Area Agencies on Aging will explore supporting regional exchange of ideas, information, and resources among dementia friendly communities.
- As resources and time allow, MN Area Agencies on Aging and the Alzheimer's Association will provide technical assistance to communities striving to become dementia friendly.

- Coordination and delivery of ACT's Dementia Care Best Practice trainings for care coordinators and physicians will be available for a fee.
- ACT's relationships with Dementia Friendly America, Dementia Friends USA and the global Dementia Friends effort will be maintained by Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging.

Note:

- No funding is available for new or existing communities, but the Minnesota Association of Area Agencies on Aging will proactively pursue new funding opportunities as they arise.
- No Health Care Summit or Action Communities Summit will be held unless sponsors/funders can be secured.
- New content/features will be developed for the ACT website on a very limited basis as resources permit.

ACT's Core Team

Core Team members and their representatives are Stratis Health (Jennifer Lundblad), Alzheimer's Association (Sue Spalding), MN Board on Aging (Mark Schulz), and Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging (Dawn Simonson). See below for member descriptions, their dementia-related work and resources, and contact information.

Ongoing health care input to the Core Team will be provided by Terry Barclay (HealthPartners), Steve Waring (Essentia Health), and Ellie Madison (Allina Health).

Alzheimer's Association Minnesota-North Dakota

Who we are

For nearly 40 years, the Alzheimer's Association Minnesota-North Dakota chapter has provided education and support programs and services for persons with dementia-related diseases, their care partners, community members, and health care professionals. Our chapter is one of 80+ chapters of the national Alzheimer's Association. [Learn more about the MN-ND chapter.](#)

Our role in the field of dementia-specific work

As dementia experts, we offer various care and support programs (described below), pursue Alzheimer's research, and advocate at the state and federal levels of government for everyone impacted by this disease. We are committed to accelerating the global progress of new treatments, preventions and ultimately, a cure for Alzheimer's.

Our programs, activities, and resources

24/7 Helpline, 1-800-272-3900. Toll-free line to speak with master's-degree-level care consultants 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in over 200 languages. Typical questions include the signs of Alzheimer's disease, everyday living issues, local resources, and decision-making support.

Community and Corporate Education. Dementia-specific classes and conferences with topics ranging from understanding Alzheimer's and reducing its risk to caring for someone with the disease or a related dementia.

Healthcare Provider Outreach and Education. Information and tools for health care providers to enhance Alzheimer's care, including early diagnosis, disease disclosure, and local resources.

Care Consultations. Free personalized support from master's-degree-level care consultants (face-to-face or via secure teleconference) for decision-making, planning, and accessing resources.

Support Groups. Some 140 support groups across the MN-ND area that assist and encourage people affected by Alzheimer's or other dementias.

Diversity and Inclusion. Two staff members representing diverse cultures address the disproportionate impact of Alzheimer's and unmet needs of ethnically and racially diverse individuals and communities.

Community Resource Finder. Online access to local resources, including housing, care at home options, community services, and more. <http://www.communityresourcefinder.org/>

Contact information

Sue Spalding, CEO MN/ND Chapter, and Region 5 leader, sspalding@alz.org

Linda Lorentzen, Chief Strategy Officer, MN/ND Chapter, llorentzen@alz.org

Website: www.alz.org/mnnd 24/7 Helpline: 1-800-272-3900

Regional offices: https://www.alz.org/mnnd/in_my_community_contact.asp

Stratis Health

Who we are

Stratis Health is an independent nonprofit organization that leads collaboration and innovation in health care quality and patient safety. For more than 45 years, we've worked across settings of care to improve the health of individuals and communities, and to improve the processes used to deliver care. We facilitate learning and action networks across communities and provide direct technical assistance to health care providers.

Though Stratis Health does not exclusively focus on dementia and Alzheimer's, the health of older adults is a longstanding organizational priority and focus. Many of our initiatives are inclusive of or related to chronic disease, including Alzheimer's. Two examples follow.

Our programs and resources

Minnesota Partnership to Improve Dementia Care (for skilled nursing facilities in Minnesota). Individualized technical assistance to nursing homes with the highest rates of antipsychotic medication use so as to reduce its use for long-stay nursing home residents with dementia, excluding those diagnosed with schizophrenia, Huntington's disease or Tourette's syndrome.

Coordination of Care communities. Regional facilitation of health care leaders and staff to prioritize and take action together on shared health improvement needs, including medication-related issues, advance care planning, communication, discharge processes, care pathways, and more. Learn more at <https://www.lsqin.org/initiatives/coordination-of-care/join/mn-collaborative/>

Contact information

Jennifer Lundblad, President and CEO, jlundblad@stratishealth.org

Resources and additional information at www.stratishealth.org

Minnesota Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Who we are

The Minnesota Association of Area Agencies on Aging (m4a) is a coalition of the [seven Area Agencies on Aging in Minnesota](#). The agencies share this common vision:

- People age with dignity and independence.
- Older adults are valuable contributors to society.
- Policymakers know and act on issues of older persons and their families.
- Communities offer a comprehensive continuum of support services.

m4a provides a common voice for furthering this vision and for supporting the individual agencies as they act as catalysts for positive change in their communities.

Our programs, activities, and resources

Senior LinkAge Line[®]. The Senior LinkAge Line is a free information and assistance service of the MN Board on Aging and Area Agencies on Aging that helps older adults and family caregivers connect to services and support in their local communities. Senior LinkAge Line uses the on-line service and housing database www.MinnesotaHelp.info, also available to the public.

Advocacy and Education. In collaboration with our partners, Area Agencies on Aging build support among stakeholders and the public for issues that affect an aging population and foster awareness of trends, assets and needs.

Community Engagement. Area Agencies on Aging provide technical assistance to local communities interested in using the Dementia Friendly Communities Toolkit and provide Champion Training for the Dementia Friends program. AAAs can also connect local businesses and service organizations to training opportunities geared toward becoming dementia friendly.

Fund Distribution. Area Agencies on Aging administer the local distribution of federal Older Americans Act funding, including Title III E Caregiver Support service funding. Funding is awarded to provider partners for respite, caregiver support groups, education, and caregiver consultation.

Caregiver Consultants/Coaches. Area Agencies on Aging fund organizations that support professional Caregiver Consultants who understand the needs and issues of family caregivers and can provide one-on-one support. With the consultant's help, the caregiver can set and meet goals, solve caregiving challenges and find helpful formal and informal resources. Many Caregiver Consultants are trained to deliver Resources for Enhancing Alzheimer's Caregiver Health (REACH). This nationally proven support, education and skills-building program is for family members and others caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. For information, go to www.mn4a.org and select Contact Us.

Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging

Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging (metroaging.org) holds a unique role in ACT on Alzheimer's, serving as the fiscal agent for the initial collective impact initiative and providing the administrative backbone for staffing, communications and the ACT website.

MAAA holds ownership of the ACT brand and intellectual property and will continue to collaborate as broadly as feasible to extend use of the brand, website, tools, resources and shared knowledge to advance dementia friendly community engagement and dementia care best practices. MAAA will maintain the ACT website and add critical updates through at least 2019, will support the Association of Area Agencies on Aging to secure additional funding for ACT, and will coordinate with key stakeholders to help ensure all ACT resources are leveraged for the greatest impact. For information, email maaa@metroaging.org.

ACT on Alzheimer's Trademark and Copyright

The name ACT on Alzheimer's® (and related logo) is a registered trademark.

ACT's Dementia Friendly Communities Toolkit, provider practice tools, dementia trainings, and related resources may be reproduced, adapted, or both when these restrictions are followed:

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Reproduced (or Adapted) from ACT on Alzheimer's® developed tools and resources.
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For more information about using the ACT name and brand or to build upon ACT's established tools and resources, email maaa@metroaging.org.