

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION FORM

Please include only one recommendation on each form.

**This form must be returned via e-mail to katie.mulford@iowa.gov no later than 5:00 p.m.,
Wednesday Nov. 21, 2007**

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Each recommendation must fit into one of the following categories. Please check the appropriate box:

Education and training

Services and housing

Funding and reimbursement

Wellness and disease management

RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend sustained support for dementia-specific interdisciplinary outreach models (where geriatric mental health experts travel from their home agency TO those older adults in need) that would deliver comprehensive diagnostic and therapeutic care to persons with dementia residing in institutional settings, with a special emphasis on those in rural settings

IN 250 WORDS OR LESS, PLEASE INCLUDE COMMENTS, JUSTIFICATION, RESOURCES OR OTHER INFORMATION TO HELP THE TASK FORCE UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR RECOMMENDATION.

Since the early 1980's outreach models in Iowa and throughout the nation have demonstrated capacity to reach underserved rural elders in both community and institutional settings to deliver effective mental health services, including care management for persons with dementia (PWDs) Statewide support is needed to implement and sustain more outreach models in underserved areas, and dementia-specific models in particular . Over the years a number of such successful efforts have come and gone in Iowa (e.g. Mental Health of the Rural Elderly Outreach program at Abbe). Current models (like those out of Behavioral Health Division at UIHC where ARNPs with psychiatrist back-up travel to remote NHs and provide diagnostic, monitoring and treatment services) are severely understaffed to meet current needs and cover only selected regions of the state. Since somewhere between 50%-75% of NH beds are occupied by PWDs the Task Force is urged to support the development of new, adequately staffed and reimbursed dementia-specific outreach teams to serve persons in institutional settings in rural areas of the state that lack appropriate services for residents with dementia.