



Respite Review

August, 2010

SC ONE OF FIRST 12 STATES TO RECEIVE LIFESPAN RESPITE CARE ACT FUNDING

In October 2009, South Carolina was one of 12 states to receive funds from the Administration on Aging (AOA) to make respite available and accessible to family caregivers regardless of age or disability. This is the first round of grants to result from our 10 years of work on the Lifespan Respite Care Act in Washington.

Guided by a State Advisory Committee of respite providers, advocates and consumers, SC's program will work to increase public awareness of what respite is, why it is needed and develop a plan to coordinate respite services.

The lead agency for this modest grant, the Lt. Governor's Office on Aging is partnering with the **SC Respite Coalition** and Family Connection of S.C. to improve coordination of existing respite services, identify gaps in them and work to build capacity at both state and local levels by recruiting and training volunteer respite providers through faith based organizations and other collaborations. For more information on the grant or other respite information, visit the Coalition website at www.screspitecoalition.org

LABOR DAY NON-EVENT (don't come - give money instead !)

On September 6, we will not be at the Coalition non-picnic and nor should you. The idea is for us all to stay home with our families. You will not have to bring potato salad or drag that cooler along with your chilled watermelon.

There will be non-swimming in the water hole and the sack races will be in our imaginations only. The non-sighting of Elvis will be at 3 p.m. - picture it!!



There will be no raffle tickets to buy. And the brownies you bake or corn you roast will be loved by your family at your own place.

BUT, since it is Labor day, consider a donation to the Respite Coalition of one hours pay. Think of the family caregivers who never get an hour off their 24 hour vigil.

Help us advocate for them and work to create easily located, affordable breaks from THEIR loving labors. We will stretch your dollars and use them wisely.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY RESPITE?

For our advocacy, we mean short, intermittent breaks that allow parents and family caregivers of people with special needs to have a few hours off periodically or an occasional weekend or week away.

For those with jobs, this is over and above child and adult day care that allows them to work.

It's for personal time, time with a spouse or other family members who get left out with so much time focused on the loved one with special needs.



Allison Poole (L) is the new part time Program Coordinator for the Lifespan Respite project. The mother of 3, she has experience with rural health clinics and legislative advocacy. She has a B.A. from the College of Charleston and Masters in Public Policy and Administration from the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. **Kathy Mayfield-Smith (R)**, co-founder and Board President will represent SC at the National Respite Conference -- October 24-27, 2010 in Baltimore, MD. For information and for presentations from past conferences, go to: www.archrespite.org (National Respite Network)

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

for information on the next **RESPITE SOLUTIONS CONFERENCE to be held in February, 2011**. It also has links to respite resources, materials for families, and information on respite in faith communities.

The recently updated "What You Need to Know About Me" notebook for family caregivers to give their respite providers is also on the website. Your feedback is not only welcome, but solicited!



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Good news from Washington

The FY 2011 Senate Labor/HHS/Ed bill includes \$7 million for Lifespan Respite – \$2 million more than the President's request and \$4.5 million more than last year's funding. Also included was \$48 million more than last year for the National Family Caregiver Support Program for total funding of \$202.2 million and \$2 million more for the Native American Caregiver Support Program for a total of \$8.4 million.

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor/HHS/Education has approved its funding bill for FY 2011 which includes an overall increase for Administration on Aging programs of \$135 million over FY 2010 funding and \$26 million more than the President's request.

For the Senate Committee report, see http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=111_cong_reports&docid=f:sr243.111.pdf

To support or offer an opinion, call the U.S. Capital switch board at 202-225-3121 & ask for your Senator or Representative.

SUPPORTERS

SCRC is most grateful for financial support from the **Carolinas Center for Medical Excellence** - a physician-sponsored, non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the quality of health care for the nearly two million Medicare consumers in North and South Carolina (www.thecarolinascenter.org)