Arizona Caregiver Coalition – Lifespan Respite Care Network

Start-Up Process

2006
• Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging forms an informal Caregiving Sub-Committee, which embarks on project to develop a statewide coalition to support informal caregivers.
• Legislation to create an Arizona Lifespan Respite Program introduced to Arizona Legislature by Valley Interfaith Project.

2007
• Legislation establishing Arizona Lifespan Respite Program (LRCP) passed with a $500K appropriation to include a new full time employee within the Division of Aging and Adult Services. State bill follows the 2006 federally enacted Lifespan Respite Program, including the requirement to develop a statewide organization or coalition to help facilitate development of the program.
• Stakeholders, including representatives from the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging, various Arizona State Agencies, and numerous non-profit agencies, agree to combine efforts to form a statewide caregiver coalition with need/requirement to develop a statewide respite coalition. Respite coalition becomes a task force within the Caregiver Coalition.
• In August, Arizona Division of Aging and Adult Services established an advisory committee of caregivers, respite providers, and representatives of state agencies to assist in the development of the LRCP. University of Arizona’s Center on Aging is contracted to conduct a study related to respite care in Arizona to help the committee identify whom the LRCP should serve and what service delivery model should be utilized.

2008
• University of Arizona Study on respite care completed – Arizona Respite Care Throughout the Lifespan: Characterizing Unmet Needs Final Report, Jan. 15.
• Caregiver Rally in March attracts hundreds to the Arizona State Capitol to support caregiver issues. The rally is the first public exposure for the new statewide Arizona Caregiver Coalition (ACC) and the Lifespan Respite Care Network (LRCN) that is nested as part of that coalition.
• By April, the LRCP begins delivering services through the Area Agencies on Aging throughout Arizona.
• ACC “officially” launched as part of the Governor’s Conference on Aging held May 14–16 in Mesa. The LRCN is established as an integral component of the overall mission of the ACC and will function as one of four action committees within the coalition: C – Collaboration A – Advocacy R – Respite E – Education
• The Arizona LRCN held first official meeting on June 4 at the Caregiver House of the Foundation for Senior Living.
• Developed ACC charter and bylaws to guide the LRCN.

Structure
• The Arizona LRCN functions as a focused network within the ACC.
• The ACC leadership currently consists of three voluntary co-chairs.

Staff
• A part-time volunteer coordinator for the LRCN was hired by the ACC in July 2010, using the LRCP grant funds, to help setup and staff the
resource line, helped with the national conference planning in 2011 and the ongoing support and growth of the ACC. This coordinator now oversees the ACC.

**Funding**
- The Division of Aging and Adult Services at the Department of Economic Security graciously hosts the ACC’s operations. Current funding of the Respite Rebate Program is through a partnership between Arizona Caregiver Coalition, Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging, and the Division of Aging and Adult Services.
- Arizona has a statute authorizing $500K annually in state funding for the Arizona LRCP, but that funding is currently not available. Advocacy steps have been taken since 2011 to re-establish funding for the state LRCP.
- Future funding for the LRCN is expected to include support from stakeholders and others, and will incorporate grant writing, sponsorships, and possible support from the state-funded LRCP.

**Membership**
- Statewide membership of service providers and caregivers from both the child, aging and disability communities, including Area Agencies on Aging, faith-based agencies and organizations, and representatives of state governmental agencies that support caregivers. Membership also includes family caregivers, respite providers, Centers for Independent Living, disease specific associations, and any other individuals, agencies, or organizations interested in developing lifespan respite as a resource to support caregivers.
- Membership is currently free and is broken down into three categories:
  - Individual caregivers and stakeholders
  - Service providers and non-profit agencies
  - Corporate sponsors

**Meetings and Communication**
- Meetings are announced and advertised on the websites and via email.
- Member database being developed for communication and organization.
- The ACC website includes: access to resources, respite vouchers, Caregiver Resource Line toll-free number/email requests, caregiver forums, blogs, and downloadable information: www.azcaregiver.org

**Activities**
- Recruited and trained Caregiver Advocate volunteers to operate the Arizona Statewide Caregiver Resource Line (CRL).
- Launched August 2012, the Arizona Statewide Caregiver Resource Line.
- Ongoing advocacy action steps to keep the statewide LRCP funded and able to continue to provide direct services accessible by calling the CRL.
- Launched in 2013 statewide on-line registry of respite/direct care workers.
- Launched in 2013 Respite Vouchers, reimbursement payment for family caregivers to take a well-deserved break.

**Documents/Resources Available**
- Development of Charter Membership Drive
- Articles of Incorporation, bylaws and establishing new ACC Board and re-establishing of ACC Board Members (under development)
- Establishing the ACC as 501(c)(3)
- PSAs and 3 videos on Respite Care, Caregiver Resource Line/Arizona Caregiver Coalition, Arizona Lifespan Respite Network (under development)
- Arizona LRCP Brochure
- ACC Brochure
- Arizona Respite Registry Brochure (2) Looking for Work/Looking to Hire a Respite Provider/Direct Care Worker
- Caregiver Assessment Tool (CAT) used statewide at Area Agencies on Aging: pre and post assessment for receipt of respite services and implemented in the accessing and determination receipt of Respite Vouchers
- Re-branded and re-launched ACC website: AZCaregiver.org
- Created a support group database: http://azcaregiver.org/resources/resource-database/
- Developed a community calendar: http://azcaregiver.org/community-calendar/

**State Contact Information**
**Arizona Caregiver Coalition**
P.O. Box 21623
Phoenix, AZ 85036
Caregiver Resource Line: 1-888-737-7494
CRL@AZCaregiver.net
Website: AZCaregiver.org

**Cindy Findley**
Executive Director
Arizona Caregiver Coalition
P.O. Box 21623
Phoenix, AZ 85036
602-542-6593
Info@AZRespite.org

**Dorothy Kelly**
Caregiver Advocate, ACC Board Member Foundation for Senior Living
1201 East Thomas Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85014
602-285-1800 Ext: 176
dkelly@fsl.org

**Jantell Cansler**
Caregiver Advocate, ACC Board Member
AARP Arizona
16165 North 83rd Avenue, Ste. 201
Peoria, AZ 85382
602-262-5166
jcansler@aarp.org