**Florida Lifespan Respite Alliance**

**Start-Up Process and Coalition History**
- The Florida Lifespan Respite Alliance (FLRA) was formed in 2015. The catalyst for the FLRA’s creation was the recognition of limited information available about respite care in Florida. A group of concerned caregivers and aging and disability professionals met to discuss the need for further community education on respite care. A Lifespan Respite Summit was held to bring stakeholders together from around the state and a leadership team was formed. The FLRA developed to address the lack of visibility of respite care, gaps in service around the state and to promote access to affordable, high quality respite care services.
- Initial activities included:
  - Prior to grant award, a summit was held to bring together stakeholders from around the state. This summit focused on developing a leadership team and partner agencies.
  - Partnerships were developed with the Department of Elder Affairs and Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida.
  - In December 2015, the FLRA was incorporated and a Board of Directors established.
  - The FLRA contracted a part-time program coordinator to work with the Board and partner agencies.

**Structure**
- The FLRA is a non-profit organization with a volunteer Board of Directors.
- The FLRA is a statewide coalition open to caregivers, stakeholders, policy makers, provider agencies and community members.
- The FLRA works in partnership with the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida.

**Staff**
- One part-time Program Coordinator
- Volunteer Board of Directors

**Funding**
- The FLRA is funded by the federal Lifespan Respite Care grant from the Administration for Community Living.
- Activities of the FLRA are supported by the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida.

**Membership**
- Members include state agency representatives, non-profit organization leaders, respite providers, aging and disability related organizations, representatives from University centers, faith-based community members and family caregivers.
- There is no fee for membership.

**Meetings and Communication**
- Conference call meetings are held monthly.
- The FLRA communicates through social media (Facebook) and the FLRA website. The website also includes a blog that is updated monthly with helpful articles. Future posts will include caregiver interviews.
- An email listserve exists for outreach to all members.
Major Activities

• Incorporated as a non-profit December 2016.
• Developed a comprehensive website that includes a blog with potential for guest expert posts.
• Created a partnership with all Florida ADRC locations to expand respite resources in the statewide database.
• Presented at the Florida Symposium on Aging with Developmental Disabilities hosted by the University of South Florida – Florida Center for Inclusive Communities.
• Participated as a member of the Florida Developmental Disabilities Council Waitlist Implementation Task Force.
• Invited to present at/participate in two upcoming statewide conferences – June 2017 and August 2017.
• Held the first Florida Lifespan Respite Summit, June 2017.
• Currently partnering with the Agency at the University of Florida to develop a Public Service Announcement for distribution by television, radio and social media.

Documents Available

• The FLRA website:
  www.FLlifespanrespite.com
• The FLRA Blog to be accessed via the website
• FLRA Facebook page
• Flyers and brochures are in development
• Surveys are in development
• PSA is in development

State Contact Information

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