State Plan for Respite
Partners Mapping
South Carolina's
Freedom Trail
to Respite

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Purpose

• Share SC’s experience in building a coordinated lifespan respite system

• Reinforce the importance of strategic planning

• Demonstrate that the strategic planning process is significant in developing ongoing working relationships, as well as commitment to goals.
Learning Objectives:

• Gain an awareness of strategies to bring the appropriate people together and how to leverage commitment from leaders with influence now and ongoing.

• Understand why one state developed a State Lifespan Respite Plan, their development process and dissemination efforts.

• Utilize lessons learned about working in a sensitive political environment to develop effective strategies to promote a coordinated lifespan respite system.
History / Background

- Funded by AoA in 2009

- Principal partners: Lieutenant Governor’s Office on Aging (LGOA), SC Respite Coalition (SCRC), Family Connection of SC (FC)
  - History of working together
  - Seized opportunity

- Goal: Build on strong foundation to bridge across ages, disabilities, and aging to develop coordinated system
  - ADRCs – one of the first states funded to develop (LGOA)
  - Family to Family (F2F) Health Information Center (FC)
  - SCRC - Statewide focus on respite across the lifespan
    - Family Connection & LGOA (two of founding organizations)
Major Focus for Lifespan Respite

- Enhance and coordinate information about respite across the lifespan
- Increase awareness about the need for respite
- Facilitate the expansion and development of respite resources and services
- Coordinate respite to enhance access for family caregivers

Coordinated Lifespan Respite System
Building Partnerships through State Advisory Committee (SAC)

- Importance to process and outcomes
- Role
  - Advisory
  - Outreach and awareness
  - Stakeholders in a coordinated lifespan respite system
  - Advocates for changes
Building Partnerships through State Advisory Committee (SAC)

• How to engage and keep engaged
  o Bring appropriate people together
    o Invitation from Lt. Governor’s Office
    o Personal contact with key partners
  o Leverage commitment from leaders with influence now and ongoing
State Advisory Committee (SAC)

- Families/Caregivers (FC, Federation of Families)
- State Agencies (Medicaid, DSS, CSHCN, DDSN, DMH)
- ADRCs/AAAs/FCSP
- Respite Organizations (SCRC, Senior Companions)
- Advocacy Organizations (Autism, Brain Injury, MS)
- Silver Haired Legislature
- DD Council
- Commission on Minority Affairs
- Veteran’s Administration
Who has been on a committee where it is more reporting than engaged action?

Who has had a committee and struggled to keep members involved?
Strategic Planning
Strategic Planning – *Why*?

• Building strong partnerships across the lifespan

• Strategically map state’s freedom trail to coordinated respite for the lifespan

• Writing a strategic lifespan respite plan can bring a diverse group of stakeholders together to brainstorm and work in new ways.
A Strategic Plan…

• Provides structure to prioritize work
• Strengthens existing relationships
• Forges new relationships on which later work is based
• Creates excitement and hope for better coordination of services, even in an environment of reduced spending
• Provides road map for future work and a communication tool at all levels.
The Process
A Year in the Making
Process

• Needs Assessment
  – Caregiver survey
  – Environmental scan of providers
  – Key informants – State Advisory Committee

• ID Major Issues and Themes
  – Awareness and understanding of respite
    • for families, policy makers and general public
  – Need for Information
  – Need for providers
  – Need for financial support
Subcommittees

• **Focused efforts in 4 areas**
  – Gaps and Obstacles
  – Education and Outreach
  – Legislative and Policy Issues
  – Provider Network Development

• Met between SAC quarterly meetings (Some met monthly)
• Developed recommendations and rationale; detailed actions
• Reported to SAC who voted on final

• **Strengthened the process by**
  – Giving opportunities for engagement at different level
  – Allowing people to shine (everyone won’t speak in a large group)
  – Broadening stakeholders and involvement beyond SAC
    • Providers
    • Caregivers and recipients
The Strategic Plan: A Living Document

- Roadmap – Freedom Trail to Respite
- Strategic guide for Lifespan Respite grants
- Leverage to engage SAC and others
- Leverage to hold partners and policymakers accountable
Key Elements of our State Plan

- 30,000 foot view - Executive Summary
- Political champions, if possible
- Laying the foundation for action/responsibility
- Making it real - “Faces of Respite”
Format: What Is In It and Why

- Sections - Each has a purpose
  - Transmittal letter and Forward
  - Executive Summary
  - Faces of Respite
  - Background and Need
  - Status of Respite in SC
Format: What Is In It and Why

- Recommendations
  - Rationale
  - Respite Partners
  - Activities

- Short – Medium – Long term
  - 1 - 2 years
  - 3 - 5 years
  - 6 – 10 years
Dissemination

- Public relations tool
  - Written for partners
  - Educational tool for policymakers & general public

- Presented to SC Legislature

- Delayed release to align with Lieutenant Governor’s request for 3 million dollars
Use in a Sensitive Political Environment

- Political, non-partisan language
- Focused more on activities than financial request
- Offers accountability reference
Roadmap – Freedom Trail to Respite

- Guide to action in South Carolina
- Defines each leg of the journey to Coordinated Lifespan Respite
- Strategic reference for partners
- Strategic reference for policymakers
Building a Coordinated Lifespan Respite System

• Establish foundation (Lifespan Respite grant)
• Build capacity for service delivery – voucher system
• Increase information resources and awareness – website, materials, public awareness
• Coordinated lifespan respite system
  • Streamline voucher applications
• Regional Advisory Committees
Implementing for Sustainability

• Branding a Coordinated Lifespan Respite System – Putting logo on websites email signatures, related materials
• Leveraging on-going commitment from leaders
• Building on success
• Following/honoring the plan
• Revisiting and revising the plan
SC Lifespan Respite
Primary Partners

- http://www.screspitecoalition.org
- http://scaccess.agis.com/
- http://www.familyconnections.org/
Discussion
and Questions