

# **The Broward Sheriff's Office FY 2015 Law Enforcement and Missing Persons with Alzheimer's Disease Initiative**

## **PROGRAM NARRATIVE**

### **Statement of Problem:**

Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (AD/D) is a condition that is largely associated with age. Currently over five million Americans have Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (AD/D) and it is projected that seven million Americans will have AD/D by 2030. Florida has a far greater number and proportion of people over age 65 than any other state in the nation. In fact, there are more seniors in Florida than in 17 states and the District of Columbia combined. Five of the 10 American counties with the highest percentage of residents over age 65 are in Florida. There more people 65 years and older in Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties (South Florida) than in 19 states. These three Florida counties combined have more people over 60 than do 38 states.

With the greatest number and proportion of persons over age 65, Florida has over 450,000 individuals ages 65 and over living with AD/D. By 2020, the prevalence of Alzheimer's disease is anticipated to reach 710,000 elder adults living with AD/D in Florida alone (U.S. Census 2010). The prevalence is growing at a rate of increase of more than 20 percent every 10 years. In Broward County, the state's second largest county, the U.S. Census estimated the county's population reached 1.8 million in 2015. According the U.S. Census, Broward County seniors (age 65 and over) make up 14.7% of the total population, resulting in a total population, 65 years and older of 265,000. A recent study of a national representative sample of people aged 70 years and older yielded a rate for AD/D at 9.7%, which could very likely indicate that the number of individuals living in Broward County with AD/D could well be over 25,000. However, approximately seven out of ten persons with AD/D are cared for at home, so verifying the actual AD/D population in Broward is problematic at best.

Over the past 15 years, as the number of persons with AD/D has increased, the unique and considerable challenges posed to law enforcement from the growing population have gained more attention. According to the Alzheimer's Association, six of ten individuals with AD/D will wander from their homes or health care facilities. This presents challenges for law enforcement and first responders that are multi-faceted and require a coordinated and collaborative inter-professional response from law enforcement, fire rescue and first responders to work closely with health and social care communities, Alzheimer's associations,

caregivers and family members of those affected by AD/D. Among the challenges faced by law enforcement:

- Lack of data on persons living with AD/D who might wander
- Lack of call taking protocols to appropriately identify and code calls of person with AD/D who have wandered
- Lack of training among law enforcement and first responders to effect the location and safe return of persons with AD/D who have wandered
- Lack of resources that will help to prevent persons with AD/D from wandering
- A sense that law enforcement is 'not sensitive enough' to deal with the complexities of persons living with AD/D and their caregivers

The term “wandering” is actually misleading, as the majority of those who wander become disoriented while they are conducting a routine activity. Persons with AD/D most often have an intended mission, whether it is real or imagined. Wandering is a result of the diseased brain being unable to recall familiar surroundings or routes, problems with way-finding and spatial orientation, and the brain’s inability to problem solve. Wandering is arguably the most dangerous of AD/D symptoms. (1)

Persons with AD/D present unique and considerable challenges to law enforcement. AD/D is hallmarked by progressive memory loss and disables a person’s ability to think clearly; to recognize persons, landmarks or other familiar objects; to remember the names of objects; to safely operate a vehicle; and often, to react rationally under what most people would consider normal situations. They may display poor situational or contextual awareness. When taking a report of a missing person with AD/D, law enforcement must consider that the AD/D mind is not logical and the missing person is lost both physically and mentally. (2)

Reports of missing persons with AD/D should be treated as emergencies, and a search should begin as soon as reasonably possible starting with an exhaustive search of the home and premises. Studies have proven that those missing with AD/D tend to hide or seclude themselves early in the process, so swift action is imperative.

While locating individuals with AD/D who wander is typically the responsibility of law enforcement and first responders, like most other crime prevention strategies, community involvement can play a vital role – not only in locating the individuals who has wandered but even more importantly, helping to prevent wandering by individuals with AD/D. The model put forth in this application includes the development and sustainability of partnerships between law enforcement, Alzheimer’s disease associations, healthcare and

education organizations, caregivers and the community at-large to prepare, respond and mitigate the dangers that result from incidences of wandering by persons with AD/D.

### **Program Design and Implementation**

The Broward Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement and Missing Persons with Alzheimer's Disease Initiative has three program components: 1) Law Enforcement Training; 2) a public awareness media campaign; and 3) a multi-tiered community partnership/ involvement project that includes a series of active learning wandering prevention workshops targeting caregivers; the training of BSO Fire Rescue C.E.R.T volunteer teams to assist in the search and location operations; a process for a de-centralized distribution of locator devices to families and caregivers with loved ones most likely to wander or go missing; and a campaign to increase the community's participation in the state's Silver Alert Text notification system.

- 1) **Law Enforcement Training:** As part of the Law Enforcement and Missing Persons with Alzheimer's Disease Initiative, the Broward Sheriff's Office Training and Development Division will host the International Association of Chiefs of Police's (IACP) two-day 'Train the Trainer' workshop for law enforcement, fire rescue and other first responders. Part of BSO's commitment to IACP will be to conduct additional "Responding to Alzheimer's Disease" workshops for agency personnel as well as first responders from other law enforcement and public safety agencies, community organizations, healthcare providers and volunteers. In addition to the IACP training, BSO currently participates in an ongoing series of one-day train the trainer workshops on electronic search and rescue training for people who are at-risk provided at no cost by SafetyNet by LoJack. To date, approximately 40 deputies have received this training. These workshops incorporate training on Alzheimer's and Related Conditions for the First Responder, as well as Practice Field Exercises and Searching Techniques, Field Exercise testing and program management for the electronic LoJack tracking. The BSO Law Enforcement and Missing Persons with Alzheimer's Disease Initiative anticipates formally training as many as 125 individuals from law enforcement, public safety and other first responder-organizations in responding to wandering or missing person incidents involving individuals suffering from AD/D during the grant period.
- 2) **Public Awareness Campaign:** One of the roles of law enforcement and public safety professionals is to be a resource to the community by effectively communicating with the different and diverse populations they serve. This can effectively be achieved when the community knows that they can count on law enforcement's support to provide solutions to

community concerns especially with vulnerable populations. A public awareness campaign geared toward informing the community of the capabilities of law enforcement to solve some of the community's problems changes the public's perception of public safety and provides a positive image that enhances collaboration. The BSO Law Enforcement and Missing Persons with Alzheimer's Disease Initiative's public awareness campaign will seek to reassure the community that missing or wandering persons with AD/D is a very serious matter and is a high priority for law enforcement and public safety officials. The campaign will incorporate existing media resources of AD/D associations to educate the community about Alzheimer's Disease and associated dementias. In addition, the campaign will seek to assure the general public that law enforcement is indeed well-trained and sensitive enough to deal with the complexities of AD/D, from the initial response to a call, to questioning and interacting with caregivers and family members to report-taking and investigating – that law enforcement will do everything it can to locate and safely return the individual with AD/D who has wandered or is missing. At the same time, the public awareness campaign will stress the importance of the community's involvement – initially in the prevention of wandering by persons with AD/D, then in the search and location of the individuals who have wandered or are missing.

The public awareness campaign will highlight the critical role to be played by families and caregivers on one hand and the community as a whole in helping law enforcement and public safety personnel to address issues surrounding AD/D. On a substantive level, the public awareness campaign will collaborate with key stakeholders to develop, produce, disseminate and utilize online videos, mini-documentaries, public service announcements (PSAs), display advertising, training webinars and distance learning tools that enhance awareness, prevention, techniques and a collaborative strategy for search and location. The campaign will develop and disseminate culturally-appropriate print, radio and television media to increase awareness of AD/D in the minority and non-English speaking communities and promote realistic and positive images of people with AD/D and their caregivers to overcome existing public stigma and misperceptions. The campaign will disseminate public educational campaign messages through accessible websites, mobile apps, libraries, senior centers, churches and physician offices with information about the role of law enforcement and public safety, strategies to prevent wandering by persons with AD/D; what to do when a loved-one wanders or is missing; and what to do if you encounter a disoriented person who potentially has wandered, is lost and may be suffering from AD/D.

The public awareness campaign will utilize various access points to disseminate information to the general public and specific groups of stakeholders to include caregivers, churches, assisted-living facilities, senior day care day facilities, Alzheimer disease facilities, physician offices and libraries. The diversity of the population of Broward County and South Florida necessitates that media is produced in the three main languages English, Spanish and Creole. In addition the

public awareness campaign will take every opportunity to disseminate educational materials at health, medical and social fairs and events.

**3) Community Partnership/Involvement:** This component of the BSO Law Enforcement and Missing Persons with Alzheimer’s Disease Initiative is a multi-tiered community involvement project. The first tier involves an educational initiative targeting caregivers at three of the county’s largest Alzheimer disease facilities –the Northeast Focal Point Center, the Easter Seals Southwest Focal Point Center and the Sylvia Poitier and Theodora Williams Senior Center. The community education component is comprised of a series of active learning workshops spearheaded by the Alzheimer’s Association, Nova Southeastern University Geriatric Center, the Broward Sheriff’s Office and the BSO Division of Fire Rescue and Emergency Services. The workshops will be led by practitioner-trainers (faculty members) from the Nova Southeastern University’s Geriatric Center. The three Alzheimer’s disease facilities will each host four, two-hour active learning workshops over the two year grant period that will focus on preventative measures to reduce wandering and what to do when wandering occurs. The active learning workshops will utilize problem-based learning techniques using scenarios, stimulations, and role-playing to actively engage the caregivers. The learning objectives for the workshops are 1) caregivers will be able to identify the causes of wandering; 2) they will be able to determine the agencies and institutions in the community that can be of assistance and what their role(s) could be; 3) they will know about changes that should be made in their home environment that could prevent wandering; and 4) they will learn what are the protocols and resources available when wandering occurs. Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine will develop and implement an evaluation of the outcomes of the workshops.

Each facility will actively promote and market their learning workshops to their clients’ caregivers and families as well as to their neighboring communities at-large, scheduling sessions during the day, in the evening and on weekends to accommodate as many of their clients and interested persons as possible. On-site care will be provided for individuals with AD/D while their caregivers attend the sessions. Over the two-year grant period, the Initiative will seek to educate 100 caregiver-participants in the preventative workshops.

In addition to the twelve preventative workshops, the BSO Law Enforcement and Missing Persons with Alzheimer’s Disease Initiative will partner with the Alzheimer’s Association of SE Florida and Nova Southeastern University to host a county-wide “Understanding Alzheimer’s and Dementia” Conference, a day-long educational event for service providers, caregivers, health care providers and interested persons that will feature training and information breakout sessions as well as a noted keynote speaker such as Teepa Snow, one of America’s leading educators on Alzheimer’s Disease and dementia. The Initiative task force and

BSO will seek private support to fund all food/refreshment costs associated with the proposed conference and to follow OJP Conference Approval, Planning and Reporting requirements.

The second tier of the Community Partnership/Involvement component will include the training and assigning of civilian volunteers for Alzheimer's Response Teams (A.R.T.) to assist Alzheimer's disease facilities and local first responders with search and location operations for persons who have wandered or are missing. The A.R.T. volunteers will be assigned to BSO Fire Rescue district stations in Deerfield Beach, Pompano Beach and Central Broward, communities with large senior populations. The A.R.T. volunteers will participate in specialized Alzheimer's response training as well as ongoing law enforcement and first responder training that focuses on the Alzheimer's community. The A.R.T. volunteers will be alerted through the Silver Alert Text notification system and through station call-outs whenever there is an incidence of wandering or a missing person with AD/D report to provide assistance and support to law enforcement-led operations.

The third tier of the Community Partnership/Involvement component is the establishment and implementation of a de-centralized AD/D Locator Device Distribution program. The Alzheimer's Disease facilities that participate in the Active Learning Workshops will be responsible for the management and distribution of electronic locator devices and identification bracelets to families. The electronic location devices will be distributed based various criteria, including income, likelihood for wandering. The facilities will be responsible for transferring electronic devices and services in the event of a patient's death, hospitalization or relocation. The identification bracelets will be distributed to the patients and their caregivers at the three facilities conducting Active Learning workshops.

The fourth and final tier of the Community Partnership/Involvement component will be conducted in conjunction with the public awareness campaign-- to convince individuals to register on the state's Silver Alert Text notification system. Silver Alert is a statewide notification system to assist law enforcement in the rescue of missing persons with cognitive impairments such as Alzheimer's Disease and other dementia. Through the use of dynamic message signs along Florida's roadways and text messages to individual phones, Silver Alerts are broadcast to the public. The Silver Alert program is triggered as a result of report from law enforcement that a person with a cognitive impairment is missing. The state's Missing and Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement confirms that the report meets the criteria for Silver Alert. The Florida Highway Patrol is notified and the alert issued. Increasing the number of individuals who receive Silver Alert notifications will likely increase the likelihood for a successful search and location of the missing or lost persons with AD/D.

### **Capabilities and Competencies**

The principal partners of the Broward Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement and Missing Persons with Alzheimer's Disease Initiative are the Broward Sheriff's Office, Broward Sheriff's Office Fire Rescue and Emergency Services Division, Nova Southeastern University, the Alzheimer's Association Southeast Florida Chapter, the NE Focal Point Center, the Easter Seals Southwest Focal Point Center, the Northwest Federated Woman's Club Alzheimer's Service Center and SafetyNet by Lo/Jack. Each partner brings their own specialized competency to this important initiative.

The Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) is the largest of 22 local law enforcement agencies in Broward County, Florida. With approximately 4,975 full-time employees, BSO is one of the largest full-service public safety nationally accredited sheriff's office in the United States. BSO provided full time law enforcement services in 14 Broward County cities and towns and all of the county's unincorporated areas, Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport and Port Everglades Sea Port. BSO has a specialized Grants Management Bureau that successfully manages over \$40 million annually in federal and state grant funding. BSO also has a Community Affairs and a Community Outreach department. Community Affairs is responsible for all public safety initiatives, printed materials, BSO's internal and external websites and all employee communication. Community Outreach leads the agency's outreach mission to community partners to help build trusting relationships necessary for long-term partnerships and understanding with the goal of uniting the community. Staff within the Community Affairs and Community Outreach will provide in-kind support to the Initiative's graphics, video production and social media activities, as well as some community outreach activities. Within the BSO Fire Rescue and Emergency Division is the Life Safety Educators unit which conducts community outreach presentations on fire safety and prevention, senior care, water safety and various other programs. In 2013, the Education Unit delivered over 300 presentations to 43,000 residents and visitors of Broward County. Staff from the Life Safety Educators unit will provide in-kind project management and administrative functions as well as coordinating with the Alzheimer facilities and Nova Southeastern University to schedule workshops and to collect the data that is required for evaluation and reporting.

Nova Southeastern University (NSU) is a not-for-profit Carnegie-classified high research and community engaged institution. The University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) as well as holding professional accreditation for all of its professional programs (e.g., osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, optometry, dental medicine, public health, etc.). NSU was founded in 1964 as Nova University and 1994 merged with Southeastern University of the Health Sciences to become NSU. The University is the ninth largest not-for-profit private university in the nation with approximately 28,000 students. The University's Health Professions Division is a major component of NSU. The medical school, College of Osteopathic Medicine enrolls 235 students annually. In addition to having

departments is each of the core areas of medicine, the college has a department of geriatrics and operates the Geriatric Education Center (GEC) that provides education and training to physicians and other health professionals as well as students. One of the department's major areas of interest and concern is the many issues faced by those afflicted by Alzheimer's disease in all of its stages. This includes Alzheimer's patients who still live at home as well as those who reside in special units of long-term care facilities. The medical and social problems that Alzheimer's patients present including wandering and even driving a vehicle are of considerable concern to physicians that constitute the geriatric department. Faculty members from the University's Department of Geriatrics will serve as the facilitator-trainers from the active learning workshops that will be conducted at Alzheimer's disease facilities.

The Alzheimer's Association Southeast Florida Chapter was created in 1980. Since that time the chapter has provided care and support to many of the 140,000 people in the chapter's area with dementia and their caregivers, while supporting many more who are undiagnosed. The services that are provided through the chapter's programs include a dementia-specific Helpline available 24/7 at 800-272-3900 that provides support programs for persons with early stage dementia and their caregivers; early stage dementia and community education; advocacy and public policy; and the MedicAlert + Safe Return Wanderers Identical Program. The Chapter provides professional and in-service training for caregivers as well as law enforcement.

The N.E. Focal Point Center is one of the county's premier Alzheimer's facilities. Serving the northeast part of Broward County, an area with a very large senior population, N.E. Focal Point Center provides Alzheimer's Day Care that includes recreation, health promotion and wellness, nutrition, transportation, information and referral, caregiver training and support and respite services.

The Easter Seals Southwest Focal Point Center also operates in an area of the county with a large senior population. Located in the city of Pembroke Pines, Southwest Focal Point is the ideal option for those who provide care for people with memory problems such as AD/D. The Center's staff is equipped to provide services in English, Spanish and Creole. Families also benefit from the Center's caregiver's support groups, counseling and educational opportunities.

The Northwest Federated Woman's Club, located in the city of Fort Lauderdale in central Broward operates the Sylvia L. Poitier & Theodora S. Williams Senior Center which provides an array of services for residents 60 years and over, including transportation, health support, educational activities, dementia/Alzheimer's Respite Care and case management. Central Broward is the oldest part of the county with a very large senior population.

SafetyNet by LoJack produces and markets the SafetyNet Bracelet, proven technology for finding and rescuing individuals who wander and become lost. The bracelet features a radio

frequency transmitter that emits a continuous signal. SafetyNet by LoJack has entered into a partnership with the Broward Sheriff’s Office to provide training to deputies and other public safety agencies in the areas of search and rescue, cognitive condition awareness, communication skills and rescue techniques. SafetyNet by LoJack will assist BSO in managing an emergency monitoring and locator device program. They will assist families who will receive grant-funded monitoring devices with training and SafetyNet by LoJack will provide some of the training for the Alzheimer’s C.E.R.T volunteers.

**Memorandums of Understanding will be executed with the Initiative’s partners upon notification of award.**

**Plan for Collecting Performance Data**

The Broward Sheriff’s Office will collect data needed to evaluate the effectiveness of the Law Enforcement and Missing Persons with Alzheimer’s Disease Initiative. This data will include, but not limited to:

- Identification and location of individuals with AD/D and caregiver families who have received electronic location devices and identification bracelets through the Initiative project.
- Demographic information on caregivers who participate in the wandering prevention workshops
- Attendance records of law enforcement and public safety officials who participated in Initiative trainings
- Demographic information on members of the Alzheimer’s Response Team volunteers
- Records on the Alzheimer Response Teams’ search and location efforts and activities
- Reports on all BSO-led AD/D related search operations during grant period
- Curricula and training materials used in the wandering prevention workshops

**BSO Law Enforcement and Missing Persons with Alzheimer’s Disease Initiative Logic Model**

Objective	Description	Performance Measure
<p><b>Law Enforcement Training</b> IACP Train the Trainer Trainings</p>	<p>A two-day session training session held at The Broward Sheriff’s Office Division of Training and Development conducted by The International Association of Chiefs of Police</p>	<p>30 law enforcement personnel, public safety officials and fire rescue first responders will successfully complete the two-day training.</p>

<p>Electronic Search and Rescue Program for People At Risk</p>	<p>Ongoing one-day trainings offered by SafetyNet at various BSO training locations</p>	<p>A minimum of four one-day training sessions during grant period with 40 law enforcement, public safety and fire rescue personnel completing the training</p>
<p><b>Public Awareness Campaign</b> Creation &amp; distribution of public service announcements to local media</p>	<p>:30 second PSAs on AD/D wandering produced and disseminated to local media outlets</p>	<p>A minimum of three PSA announcements developed and disseminated to local media during grant term.</p>
<p>Creation &amp; distribution of an online video on AD/D wandering and prevention protocols</p>	<p>2- 5 minute online video to be aired on <a href="http://www.sheriff.org">www.sheriff.org</a> and other websites</p>	<p>Record-keeping on the number of “hits”/viewing of the video on <a href="http://www.sheriff.org">www.sheriff.org</a> and other websites</p>
<p>Creation &amp; distribution of educational brochures and display posters in English, Spanish and Creole on AD/D wandering prevention and Silver Alert protocols</p>	<p>Printed materials to educate the general public on AD/D wandering, how to prevent it and what to do when it happens</p>	<p>Printing and distribution of 10,000 brochures and posters to Alzheimers-serving agencies, churches and other community Locations</p>
<p>Placement of AD/D billboards</p>	<p>Billboards promoting AD/D wandering or lost protocols</p>	<p>Placement of 2-3 billboards in high traffic areas during grant period</p>
<p><b>Community Partnership/Involvement</b> Organizing an AD/D Law Enforcement Coalition</p>	<p>A working task force that will coordinate and organize the community involvement aspect of the BSO AD/D Initiative</p>	<p>AD/D Law Enforcement Coalition will include Alzheimers Association of SE Florida, Focal Point Centers and AD/D serving agencies,</p>

<p>Wandering prevention workshops</p>	<p>A total of 12 two-hour wandering prevention workshops held at three AD/D facilities during the two-year grant period</p>	<p>Nova SE University and Geriatric Center</p> <p>A total of 150 caregivers will complete the two-hour wandering prevention training.</p>
<p>AD/D Volunteer training</p>	<p>AD/D wandering and search training for Volunteer Civil Emergency Response Teams (C.E.R.T.)</p>	<p>Ten hours of training over the grant period for a minimum of three C.E.R.T. teams</p>
<p>Distribution of electronic location devices and AD/D ID bracelets</p>	<p>Three AD/D facilities will develop a process for the dissemination of grant-funded electronic location devices and ID bracelets to AD/D client/patients and their caregivers</p>	<p>Distribution of approximately 30 electronic location devices to AD/D clients most prone to wander. The distribution of approximately 300 AD/D ID bracelets.</p>