

Kathryn Pears
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Curriculum Vitae

WORK EXPERIENCE

2013 – Present

National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices Steering Committee Member

The 'NTG' is a coalition of interested persons and organizations working toward ensuring that the needs and interests of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementia – as well as their families and friends – are taken into account as part of the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease.

The NTG is composed of families, association and organization representatives, practitioners, academics, and others who contribute time and effort to its activities and is managed by a Steering Committee. The NTG is supported by the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry and the Gerontology Division of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, along with the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Aging with Developmental Disabilities-Lifespan Health and Function at the University of Illinois at Chicago and the Center on Excellence in Aging at the University at Albany.

Co-chair, Working Group on Education and Training

The education and training group is developing a national staff development curriculum and training pack on dementia and intellectual and developmental disabilities that would be usable by providers and organizations for orienting entry staff, for continuing education of existing personnel, and for training specialty staff who work in dementia-capable programs. <http://aadmd.org/ntg/task-groups>

2012 – Present

Maine Savvy Caregiver Program Grant, (Contract Services)

Office of Aging and Disability Services

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

- Lead trainer
- Maintenance of fidelity
- Technical assistance for Maine Savvy Caregiver Program grant
- Data analysis for program reports.
- Dementia specific consulting
- Compliance reporting to federal Administration on Aging on progress made.

2011 – Present

Dementia Care Strategies, Inc.

Founder and CEO

Dementia training, consulting and patient advocate services.

- In-service trainings to develop staff proficiency in dementia care
- Resident-specific behavioral consultations
- Dementia consulting on program design
- Family caregiver and community workshops
- Webinars for professionals and non-professionals on a variety of dementia topics
- Private family consultations

- Individual patient advocacy

1996 – 2011

Alzheimer's Association, Maine Chapter Scarborough, ME

Director of Programs, Public Policy and Community Affairs (2008 – 2011)

Maintained all public policy responsibilities as described below, plus:

- Organized and directed all Maine Chapter program activities including support groups, grant programs, fee-for-service educational programs and free family caregiver programs.
- Developed and conducted educational programs on dementia care for professional and nonprofessional caregivers.
- Developed and implemented training curriculum for intellectual/developmental disability (I/DD) providers on I/DD and Dementia.
- Supervised education staff and curricula.
- Organized and coordinated annual state-wide dementia conference (2010).
- Developed, coordinated and implemented in-service workshops and seminars on dementia care in long term care facilities.
- Produced and disseminated press releases, letters to editor and articles for a variety of Maine publications.
- Tracked, analyzed and reported on program data.

Director of Public Policy (1996 – 2008)

- Registered lobbyist.
- Monitored and analyzed state legislative and regulatory proposals related to individuals with dementia and identified priority administrative and legislative issues that should be addressed by the Maine Chapter.
- Identified emerging areas of concern that lent themselves to legislative or regulatory action, developed and implemented strategic action plans, directly initiated action items and maintained control of initiative to successful completion.
- Advised chapter board on potential impact of legislative and regulatory issues and offered strategies for action.
- Developed and distributed position statements.
- Built and managed grassroots advocacy capacity of Maine Chapter.
- Developed, maintained and managed relationships with Maine's Congressional delegation.
- Served as key point of contact for media, community and long term care industry relations.
- Represented the Chapter in the policy activities with external groups and developed/maintained liaison with governmental agencies, legislative bodies and various non-governmental organizations regarding dementia issues.
- Secured the active involvement of Maine Chapter on multiple state-level task forces, work groups and coalitions and Department of Health and Human Services policy decisions.

1997-1998

St. Joseph's College Windham, ME

Adjunct Professor, Master's in Health Care Program

- Developed and implemented curriculum for graduate level students in *Health Care Policy and Politics*.

1990 – 1993

Alzheimer's Association, Maine Chapter Falmouth, ME

President, Board of Directors/Volunteer

- Oversaw all aspects of Chapter management and staff.
- Screened and hired management staff.

- Liaison to National Alzheimer's Association staff and management.

1988 – 1990

Aiello and Company Real Estate
Kennebunkport, ME
Licensed Real Estate Broker

1985 – 1988

Shanley Real Estate
Portsmouth, NH
Licensed Real Estate Broker
Manager and Lead Broker, Kennebunkport Branch Office

1979 – 1985

Leopold A. Viger, MD and Associates
Biddeford, ME
Practice Manager

EDUCATIONAL DETAILS

Associate Degree, Medical Assisting

Westbrook College, Portland, ME
 National certification in administrative and clinical practice.

Bachelor of Arts, Sociology and Philosophy

University of Southern Maine, Portland, ME

Master of Public Policy and Management, Public Financial Management

Muskie School of Public Service, Portland, ME
 Graduated second in class.
 Concentrated focus on Medicaid financial policy.

Executive Certificate in Health Care Policy and Management

Muskie School of Public Service, Portland, ME

BOARD POSITIONS, TASK FORCE & COALITION ACTIVITIES

Include, but not limited to, the following:

- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC (volunteer instructor)
- MEDCAPS Dementia-Capable Systems Change Grant, Maine Department of Health and Human Services (Steering Committee Member – Current)
- Maine Gerontological Society, Board of Directors (current)
- Maine Gerontological Society, Co-Chair, Legislative Committee (current)
- National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices, Steering Committee Member and Group "T" Curriculum co-chair (current)
- Southern Maine Area Agency on Aging (former board member)
- Bucksport Bay Friends Adult Day Program (former board member)
- Elder Issues Partnership
- Best Practices Committee, Office of Licensing and Regulation, Maine Department of Health and Human Services
- LANE/Culture Change Initiative, Maine Health Care Association
- LEAN Process - ME Department of Health and Human Services (core group member)

- Maine Coalition for an Aging Initiative (former member, coalition disbanded)
- Bangor LTC Provider Advisory Committee
- Office of Elder Services Steering Committee
- Southern Maine Long Term Care Working Group
- Special Services Subcommittee, MaineCare Managed Care Initiative
- National Alzheimer's Association, Early Stage Dementia Protocols Work Group
- MaineNET Managed Care Initiative (member – mid 1990's)
- Medicare Part D Steering Committee (former member, committee inactive)
- DHHS Workgroup to establish medical eligibility criteria for Appendix C PNMI's
- DHHS Workgroup to establish special dementia screen for medical eligibility for nursing home residents with dementia (member – mid 1990's)
- Committee on Select Services for Older Adults (Chair, early 2000's, coalition disbanded)
- Money Follows the Person Work Group, Maine Department of Health and Human Services
- Author or co-author of multiple legislatively mandated reports on Maine geriatric mental health services and dementia services.