OBJECTIVES

• To become informed about the Aging Network and resources for older adults, individuals with disabilities and their caregivers in the Atlanta Region

• To become familiar with the different care options available and consider the pros and cons of each option

• To identify which options and resources would best meet the needs of the care recipient and their family

• To begin to develop a list of the qualities and experience/training needed to select a quality compatible paid caregiver for a family member
The National Aging Network

- Congress

**Federal**
- Department of Health and Human Services
  - Administration on Aging

**State**
- State Units on Aging
  - State Advisory Councils
  - Area Advisory Councils

**Local**
- Area Agencies on Aging
- Direct Service Providers
Our Mission:

To serve as the focal point for older adults and caregivers in the planning, delivery and coordination of information, resources and services that support healthy independent and enriched living for older adults.
Atlanta Region Aging Network
Area Agency on Aging

- ARC is one of 12 AAAs in Georgia
- One of 650 AAAs in nation

Provide:
- 1 million meals
- 700,000 rides
- 170,000 hours of adult day care
- 125,000 hours of in-home support
- Information to 70,000 callers
- Care Management Services

Through:
22 contract agencies
12 multipurpose facilities
44 neighborhood senior centers
12 adult day centers
thousands of volunteer hours
Aging & Disability Resource Connection
An initiative of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Information and Referral

- Assessment
- Consultation
- Counseling
- Information
- Referrals to Services
- Customer Focused
ELDERCARE CONSULTATION BENEFIT
THROUGH WORKLIFE RESOURCE CENTER

BROWN RICHARDS
ELDERCARE LOCATOR

The Eldercare Locator is a public service of the U.S Administration on Aging that helps caregivers and individuals locate services nationwide.

800.677.1116

www.eldercare.gov
Department of Health and Human Services defines caregiver as:

“A generic term referring to a person, either paid or voluntary, who helps an (individual) with the activities of daily living, health care, financial matters, guidance, companionship and social interaction. A caregiver can provide more than one aspect of care. Most often the term refers to a family member or friend who aids the (individual)”
CAREGIVER ROLES

Primary Caregiver
  Sandwich Generation
  Employed Outside the Home

Long Distance Caregiver

Crisis

Casual
The Family Caregiver Alliance National Center on Caregiving defines a care recipient as:
“an (individual) with a chronic illness or disabling condition or an older person who needs ongoing assistance with everyday tasks to function on a daily basis. The person needing assistance may also require primary and acute medical care or rehabilitation services (occupational, speech and physical therapies).”
ASSESSING THE CARE NEEDS

- Geriatric Assessment
- Care Manager
- Family Observation
- Physician
- Hospital Discharge Planner
- Social Workers in Community Based Agencies
CARE PLAN

A care plan is a written description of proposed services to meet the needs of the individual receiving care. The plan should be evaluated on a regular basis and updated as necessary to continue to meet the needs of the individual. Information on health, medications, dietary restrictions etc. should be provided at this time.
CARE OPTIONS IN THE COMMUNITY

- Adult Day Care
- Assisted Living (Licensed Personal Care Homes)
- Nursing Homes
CARE OPTIONS IN THE HOME

Home Health Agency offers:

- Skilled care requiring doctor’s orders and is a Medicare covered service
- Recent hospitalization lasting three or more days
- Registered Nurse evaluation develops care plan based on doctor’s orders
- Custodial care as long as skilled care provided
Private Home Care Providers Offer:

**Companion Sitter Service**

- transport and escort services;
- meal preparation and serving; and household tasks essential to cleanliness and safety
- reading or socializing with the client while providing watchful oversight
Private Home Care Providers Offer (Continued):

**Personal Care Assistance**

- "Hands on" services, such as assistance with bathing or toileting
- Feeding assistance
- Ambulation or transfer assistance
Private Home Care Providers Offer (Continued):

**Skilled Nursing**

- Services can only be provided by a person licensed as a Registered Professional Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse
- Services require physician orders
- Regularly assess the nursing needs of the client
- Provide nursing services as needed and in accordance with the client's service plan
CARE OPTIONS IN THE HOME

Private Home Care Providers Offer (Continued): Skilled Nursing (Continued)

- May not provide physical, speech, or occupational therapy, medical social services, or medical nutrition services.

- Skilled Nursing care under this licensure is not covered by Medicare.
ADVANTAGES OF IN-HOME CARE

- Sense of control
- Familiar surroundings
- Extends “Independence”
- May delay placement in an alternative residential setting
- May be more affordable
- Convenient for family and friends to visit in a relaxed private setting
DISADVANTAGES OF IN-HOME CARE

- Isolation/lack of socialization for those that live at home alone
- Lack of an interested local third party, whether family or friend to monitor the situation
- Emergency situations
- Caregiver burnout without adequate support
LICENSED AGENCY VS. INDIVIDUAL

AGENCY:

- Licensed by the State of Georgia Healthcare Facilities Regulation Division (HFRD)
- Performs vetting of direct care providers
- Considered the “employer” and responsible for taxes, Unemployment Compensation etc.
- Availability of back-up caregiver
- Provides continuing education and training opportunities
- Appropriate insurance coverage
LICENSED AGENCY VS. INDIVIDUAL

Individual:

- With an individual, the family must evaluate the caregiver via reference check, criminal background check, credit and driving record check, basic health/TB screening, education/training/certifications
- For criminal background check go to:
  

  Information may also be obtained from the local sheriff or police department
LICENSED AGENCY VS. INDIVIDUAL

- **Individual (continued)**
- Individual may be less expensive, but family would be employer and responsible for all taxes etc.
- Individual would need to provide proof of liability insurance, bonding etc.
LICENSED AGENCY VS. INDIVIDUAL

Individual (continued)

- Individual may be more flexible in hours and tasks
- Individual may provide care some care in exchange for room and board
- Individual may come with a reference or recommendation from someone known to the family
FINDING AN INDIVIDUAL

- Family and friends
- Churches
- Classified ads
- Employment agencies
- Department of Labor
- Community bulletin boards
FUNDING

MEDICARE DOES NOT FUND CUSTODIAL CARE AS A STAND ALONE SERVICE !!!

- Private Pay/Out of Pocket using personal or family resources and income to meet the cost of care.
- Some Long Term Care Insurance policies cover this type of care. Coverage varies by policy.
FUNDING (Continued)

- **VA Aide in Attendance Pension** is a form of a disability pension providing funds to assist in paying for the regular aid and attendance of a caregiver or for a homebound veteran or single surviving spouse meeting required conditions of health, military service and income/assets. These conditions must be certified by the VA and the applicant awarded a “rating” to be eligible for this pension.
Medicaid Waiver Programs are community based nursing home alternative programs that offer a variety of services for those individuals that meet a nursing home level of care, certain financial criteria and can be safely maintained in the community setting with limited services.
Community Care Services Program
SOURCE Programs

- Skilled Nursing
- In-Home Support
- Adult Day Care
- Respite Care
- Alternative Living Services
- Emergency Response
- Home Delivered Meals
- Care Coordination
- Medicaid Waiver Programs
MAKING THE MATCH
FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES
• Approach caregiving as a family affair
  • Assist with direct care?
  • Financial support?
  • Managing/coordinating paperwork?
  • Research?

• Evaluate the contributions of family members and friends

• Be aware of caregiver “burnout”-take care of the caregiver
Keep the care recipient in the loop and involved in the whole process as much as possible.
TAKE THE TIME

- Interviewing perspective applicants
- Confirming references and verifying education
- Creating a job description with specifics tasks
- Determining compensation packet
  - Hourly/Salary?
  - Medical Insurance?
  - Sick days/vacation days?
  - Included expenses?
CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

Georgia Bureau of Investigation
Contact: GCIC Computerized Criminal History (CCH) Helpdesk
Phone: 404-244-2639, select option 1 or option 2
Email: GAApplicant@gbi.ga.gov
Website: http://gbi.georgia.gov
THE CAREGIVER
A CALLING OR A JOB?

Is caring for your loved one what the caregiver REALLY wants to do or is this a stopgap until something better comes along?
CHEMISTRY WITH THE CARE RECIPIENT

- Comfort Level
- Patient
- Empathetic
- Flexible
- Culturally Sensitive
- Common Interests
- Shared Values
- Judgment
EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING OF THE CAREGIVER

- Verifiable references
- Number of years of experience
- Setting(s) in which the experience was obtained
- Diversity of client(s)
- Education
- Special training
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- First aid training
- CPR
HEALTH OF CAREGIVER

- Basic physical
- Screened for TB
- Drug Screen
- Flu shot
- Physically able to perform tasks (lifting properly, assisting with transfers, able to bend to assist with bathing etc.)
MISCELLANEOUS

- Valid driver’s license
- Access to dependable transportation
- Comprehension and command of language spoken by the care recipient
- House rules for smoking, alcohol and caregiver visitors
- Pets
HELPFUL WEBSITES AND PHONE NUMBERS

- AgeWise Connection (AWC) – 404.463.3333
  www.agewiseconnection.com
- Healthcare Facilities Regulation Division (HFRD) - 800.326.0291
  http://167.193.144.216
- Alzheimer’s Association – 404.728.1181
  www.alzga.org
- disAbility Link – 404.687.8890
  http://www.disabilitylink.org
HELPFUL WEBSITES AND PHONE NUMBERS

- All About Developmental Disabilities (AADD)
  404.881.9777  http://www.aadd.org
- Brain & Spinal Injury Trust Fund Commission
  888.233.5760  or  404.651.5112
  http://www.ciclt.net/bsitf/
- Parent to Parent of Georgia – 800.229.2038
  http://www.p2pga.org/
- Cogent (Criminal Background Check)
  https://www.ga.cogentid.com/index.htm
HELPFUL WEBSITES AND PHONE NUMBERS

- Wesley Woods Geriatric Hospital, Outpatient Geriatric Assessment  404.728.6363  
  http://www.emoryhealthcare.org/wesley-woods/index.html

- Fuqua Center for Late Life Depression  404. 728.6948  
  http://fuquacenter.org/index.php

- Georgia Health Partnership Nurse Aid Program  
  (confirms CNA certification with the State) 800.414.4358
HELPFUL WEBSITES AND PHONE NUMBERS (continued)

- Veterans Administration (VA) - 800.827.1000
  www.va.gov
- Elder Locator - 800.677.1116
  http://www.eldercare.gov/Eldercare.NET/Public/Home.aspx
- The American Geriatrics Society Foundation for Health and Aging -
HELPFUL WEBSITES AND PHONE NUMBERS (continued)

- Family Caregiving 101
  http://www.familycaregiving101.org
- National Alliance for Caregiving
  http://www.caregiving.org
- National Family Caregivers Association
  800.896.3650 or 301.942.6430
  http://www.thefamilycaregiver.org