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**Alzheimer's Disease Working Group Announced**

The Minnesota Board on Aging has named members to the Alzheimer's Disease Working Group established by the 2009 Legislature.

The Alzheimer's Disease Working Group will examine the services available to meet the needs of people diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and the capacity of the state and current providers to meet those and future needs.

Named to serve on the group by Kathleen Harrington, chair of the Minnesota Board on Aging, are: Ronald Petersen, Rochester, neurologist and director of the Mayo Clinic Alzheimer's Disease Research Center; Terry Barclay, Minneapolis, psychologist; Mary Birchard, executive director of the Alzheimer's Association Minnesota-North Dakota; Patricia Cullen, president and chief executive officer of Care Providers of Minnesota; Michael Demmer, Buffalo, president and chief executive officer of Prairie Senior Cottages; Michael Donohue, Minneapolis, and William Keigan, Clearwater, as representatives of persons diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease; Neil Johnson, Maplewood, executive director of the Minnesota HomeCare Association; Catherine Sampson, Duluth, Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging director; George Schoephoerster, St. Cloud, physician; Carol Shapiro, Edina, caregiver; John Thomas, Moorhead, medical director of Hospice of the Red River Valley; and Harrington of Edina, Jayne Hager Dee of Northfield and Jayne Clairmont of Edina, representing the Minnesota Board on Aging.

Governor Tim Pawlenty earlier appointed Charles Denny, Minneapolis, and Anne Murray, Edina, to the group.

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Also serving on the group as representatives of their agencies are Robert Held, director of the Minnesota Department of Human Services Nursing Facility Rates and Policy Division; Mary Manning, director of the Minnesota Department of Health Disease Prevention and Control Division; and the Ombudsman for Long-Term Care, Deb Holtz.

The Alzheimer's Association initiated this legislative effort to address a range of issues including quality of long-term care, availability of diagnostic services and the identification of services and supports for people at all stages of the disease. The group will examine the array of needs of individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, services available to meet those needs and the capacity of the state and current providers to meet these and future needs.

Teams of experts selected for their professional expertise and unique qualifications will provide findings and make recommendations to the working group. These conclusions will lead to a final report to be provided to Governor Pawlenty and legislative leaders by January 2011. The report will also include draft legislation necessary to implement the findings and recommendations.

The first meeting of the working will be Thursday, Aug. 27, at Department of Human Services offices at 444 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul. More information is available at [www.mnaging.org](http://www.mnaging.org).

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### **About the Minnesota Board on Aging**

The primary purpose of the Governor-appointed Minnesota Board on Aging is to ensure that older Minnesotans and their families are effectively served by state and local policies and programs in order to age well and live well. Partnering with area agencies on aging and others, the MBA administers and oversees the use of Older Americans Act funds as well as state funds to support older Minnesotans. In addition, the MBA provides objective information and data to the Minnesota Legislature, the governor and state agencies to shape policies that reflect the needs and interests of older Minnesotans. For more information, visit [www.mnaging.org](http://www.mnaging.org)

### **About the Alzheimer's Association Minnesota-North Dakota**

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer care, support and research. Its mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. For more information, go to [www.alz.org/mnnd](http://www.alz.org/mnnd) or the 24/7 Information Helpline at 1- (800) 272-3900.