10/10/2023 Supporting Older Adults and their Family

Sub-Group: **Supporting Persons with Special Challenges**

**Lead #1:** Carol Conway

**Participants**:

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**Area of Focus:** *Provide targeted support for older adults with special challenges beyond dementia, including those with physical disabilities, chronic illnesses, or mental health conditions, by offering tailored services, accessibility accommodations, and appropriate healthcare interventions.*

**Known Resources:**

* [Olmstead Plan](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/508-compliant-north-carolina-olmstead-plan/download?attachment): System Strengths, Gaps, and Challenges in Supporting Individuals with Disabilities.
* DHHS Strategic Plan: Support disabled and older adults in leading safe, healthy, and fulfilling lives.

**Our recommendations could focus on:**

1. Integrating adults with I/DD into the wider senior care community, such as Senior Centers.

2. Engaging the I/DD community in dialog about aging with other disability groups, such as NAMI and LENS.

3. Ensuring that aging adults with I/DD that suddenly need a higher level of service aren’t simply dumped from their existing living situation without proper supports, as was the case a few decades ago in de-institutionalizing adults with mental illness.

4. Acknowledging that aged adults with I/DD may not be well served in existing senior care facilities, and perhaps replicating the small retirement center in Chapel Hill that specializes in I/DD.

5. Raising family awareness about existing adaptive technologies and services that can keep their loved one in their home, and creating mechanisms that enable families to afford those tools and services.

We also mentioned the need to address caregivers of adults with I/DD or MH who are themselves aging, but there’s another subgroup addressing that, I believe. We also agreed to get AARP and ATP to speak with PACID about aging and technologies.

***Known******Best Practices:***

* The small retirement center in Chapel Hill that specializes in I/DD.
* Senior Centers