EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 19-08

Establishing the Kansas Alzheimer’s Disease Task Force

WHEREAS, more than 54,000 Kansans suffer from Alzheimer’s, and that number is estimated to more than triple by the year 2050; and

WHEREAS, nearly one out of every three seniors who die each year suffer from some form of dementia; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer’s is a serious disease that affects not only those who have it, but also their families and 151,000 caregivers in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, the severity of this health crisis necessitates the implementation of a statewide response plan; and

WHEREAS, this health crisis has a significant fiscal impact on the State of Kansas, which is estimated to keep increasing, currently costing $441 million in Medicaid alone each year; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia negatively impact the health and quality of life of Kansans; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 Governor Colyer created an Alzheimer’s Disease Plan task force that made significant progress.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Kansas, I hereby establish the Kansas Alzheimer’s Disease Task Force (“Task Force”):

1. Membership of the “Task Force” shall be comprised of the following members:
   a. One member appointed by the Speaker of the House;
   b. One member appointed by the House Majority Leader;
   c. One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the House;
   d. One member appointed by the Senate President;
   e. One member appointed by the Senate Majority Leader;
   f. One member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;
   g. At least one person with Alzheimer’s disease;
h. At least one caregiver of a person with Alzheimer’s disease;

i. A representative of the nursing facility industry;

j. A representative of the assisted living industry;

k. A representative of the in-home care/hospice industry;

l. A representative of the medical care provider community;

m. An Alzheimer’s disease researcher;

n. A psychologist who specializes in geriatric care;

o. An elder law attorney;

p. A representative of the Alzheimer’s Association;

q. A representative of the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature; and

r. A representative from the law enforcement community.

2. Research, data, administrative support, and guidance from the following agencies: Kansas Department of Labor, Kansas Department of Commerce, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services shall be primarily responsible for and take the lead in providing such support.

3. The Governor shall select one member of the Task Force to serve as chair.

4. Other members with relevant experience may be invited to join the Task Force by the Governor or Chair.

5. The Task Force shall meet monthly or as needed, at the discretion of the Chair.

6. Members of the Task Force shall not receive compensation, subsistence, allowance, or associated expenses. Officers or employees of state agencies who are appointed to the Task Force as part of their duties shall be authorized to participate on the Task Force and may claim subsistence, allowance, mileage, or associated expenses as permitted by law.

7. It shall be the duty of the Task Force to:

   a. Assess the current and future impact of Alzheimer’s disease on residents of the State of Kansas;

   b. Examine the existing industries, services, and resources addressing the needs of persons with Alzheimer’s, their families, and caregivers; and

   c. Develop a strategy to mobilize a state response to this public health crisis.
8. The Task Force shall also include an examination of the following in its assessment and recommendations:

   a. Trends in Alzheimer’s population and needs, including the changing population with dementia, including but not limited to:

      i. State role in long-term care, family caregiver support, and assistance to persons with early-stage and early onset of Alzheimer’s;

      ii. Surveillance of persons with Alzheimer’s disease for purposes of having proper estimates of the number of persons in the state with Alzheimer’s disease; and

      iii. The inappropriate use of antipsychotic medications to treat symptoms of dementia, which is a multi-faceted issue that touches every major area of our state’s health care system, and comprehensive strategies to reduce this use.

   b. Existing services, resources, and capability, including but not limited to the:

      i. Type, cost, and availability of dementia services;

      ii. Dementia-specific training requirements for long-term care staff;

      iii. Quality care measures for long-term care facilities;

      iv. Capacity of public safety and law enforcement to respond to persons with Alzheimer’s;

      v. Availability of home- and community-based resources for persons with Alzheimer’s and respite care to assist families;

      vi. Inventory of long-term care dementia care units;

      vii. Adequacy and appropriateness of geriatric-psychiatric units for persons with behavior disorders associated with Alzheimer’s and related dementia;

      viii. Assisted living residential options for persons with dementia; and

      ix. State support of Alzheimer’s research through Kansas universities and other resources.

   c. Needed State policies or responses, including but not limited to directions for the provision of clear and coordinated services and supports to persons and families living with Alzheimer’s and related disorders and strategies to address any identified gaps in services.

9. The Task Force is directed to hold public meetings and to utilize technological means, such as webcasts, to gather feedback on the recommendations from persons and families
affected by Alzheimer’s disease and the general public. The Task Force shall be subject to the Kansas Open Records Act and the Kansas Open Meetings Act. Plans, reports, or recommendations of any nature adopted by the Task Force shall be considered advice to the Governor and Legislature, and shall not be construed as official policies, positions, or interpretations of laws, rules, or regulations by any department or agency of state government, nor shall any such department or agency be bound in any manner to consider such advice when conducting their regulatory affairs.

10. The Task Force is directed to submit a report of its finding and recommendations to the Legislature and Governor in the form of a Kansas Alzheimer’s Disease Plan by January 13, 2020, or as appropriate during the intervening period.

11. The Task Force shall sunset upon delivery of the Kansas Alzheimer’s Disease Plan to the Legislature and Governor. By further Executive Order, the Governor may reconvene the Task Force to update the plan in the future.

This document shall be filed with the Secretary of State as Executive Order No. 19-08. It shall become effective immediately and remain in force until rescinded.

BY THE GOVERNOR

DATED 5-2-19

Secretary of State

Assistant Secretary of State