

National Respite Coalition

LIFESPAN RESPITE TASK FORCE VISION STATEMENT

“We envision an America where respite is readily available and easily accessible to all caregivers.”



Goals

- *Universal availability of respite for all who seek it*
- *Widespread acceptance that it is all right to ask for and receive help*
- *Heightened awareness of caregiver needs*
- *Easy access to an array of affordable respite services*
- *Flexibility to meet diverse needs*
- *Systems that meet the comprehensive needs of caregivers to locate, train, and pay for respite*

Working Definition

Respite care, which includes crisis care, provides temporary relief for caregivers from the ongoing responsibility of caring for an individual of any age with special needs, or who may be at risk of abuse or neglect.

Why is Respite So Important?

Respite is often the most frequently requested and needed family support service. Respite is first and foremost a preventive strategy that strengthens families, protects family health and well being, and allows individuals to remain in their own home. Respite has been shown to prevent or delay more costly out-of-home placements, reduce the risk of abuse or neglect, and to help keep all family members safe and stable.

Principles of a Quality Respite Care System

Respite is available to all families and caregivers. Respite should be available to any caregiver providing ongoing care for individuals of any age with any physical or mental disability, chronic or terminal illness, or other special need, or at risk of abuse or neglect, regardless of family income, race, gender or situation.

Respite is accessible. Respite should be easily accessible by caregivers when, how, and where it is needed.

Respite is affordable. Sufficient resources should be available to ensure that all caregivers have access to high quality respite services.

Planned and emergency respite is available. Respite is also an important component of a continuum of comprehensive family support services available to caregivers not only on a planned basis, but also in emergency situations.

Families have an array of options and can choose respite services that meet their unique needs. A wide array of respite options, including in-home and out-of-home, and a diverse pool of providers that meet families' needs should be available. Culturally competent providers should be available to all families. Caregivers should be free to choose their respite providers.

Respite systems address capacity issues and ensure enough providers are available. The current supply of individuals available to provide respite is inadequate in many communities, especially respite for individuals with mental illness or severe medical conditions, or in some rural and urban areas.

Respite systems ensure caregivers are aware of respite and know how to access respite. Adequate outreach and support services should be made available to increase caregiver awareness about available respite options and community resources.

Respite systems empower caregivers to select, hire and train competent providers. A mechanism should be in place to support and assist caregivers in the process of selecting providers to meet their individual needs.

Respite systems are made up of agencies and individuals committed to addressing gaps and barriers in services. Respite systems should include families, stakeholders, agencies and community-based partners.

Respite is high quality. All available and accessible respite options should be of high quality, and ensure the safety of the individual being cared for. Services are evaluated and feedback from families drives program improvements.

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National and State Organizations Endorsing
the Statement of Vision, Goals, & Principles of Quality Respite Care
of the Lifespan Respite Task Force



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY AFFILIATED PROGRAMS
BAZELON CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH LAW
FAMILY FRIENDS PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE AGING
GENERATIONS UNITED
MONTANA DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES COUNCILS
NATIONAL COUNCIL ON FAMILY RELATIONS
OLDER WOMEN'S LEAGUE
RESPITE CARE ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN, INC.

Lifespan Respite Task Force Response Form

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

(1) My organization endorses the vision statement, goals, definition and principles as set forth by the Lifespan Respite Task Force. Yes No

(2) I would like to participate in the Legislative Focus Group of the National and State Strategies Committee that will be developing a national bill on lifespan respite. Yes No

(3) I will attend the Lifespan Respite Task Force Meeting on March 15, 2001 at 1:00 P.M. EST at the office of Easter Seals, 700 13th Street, NW, Suite 200, Washington, D.C. Yes No

(4) I cannot attend either of these meetings but would like to know how else I can be more actively involved. Please call me. Yes

Please return this form by March 5, 2001 to

Jill Kagan, Chair

National Respite Coalition

4016 Oxford Street, Annandale, VA, 22003

Fax (703) 256-0541

You may e-mail your response to <jbkagan@aol.com>

Prepared by the Lifespan Respite Task Force, a coalition of national organizations interested in promoting the concept of respite care for all caregivers, regardless of age or disability. The Task Force is a working group of the National Respite Coalition. For more information, contact Jill Kagan, 703-256-9578 or <jbkagan@aol.com>