The recently enacted National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA) will lead to the development of a coherent and coordinated national strategy on dealing with Alzheimer's disease in the United States. To complement this federal initiative and to address the myriad requests for more specific information and practice models for providing quality care for people with intellectual disabilities affected by dementia, the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), the American Academy of Developmental Medicine and Dentistry (AADMD), along with the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Aging and Developmental Disabilities-Lifespan Health and Function at the University of Illinois at Chicago, have created the National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices (NTG). It is the intent of the National Task Group to feed into the NAPA effort and ensure that the concerns and needs of people with intellectual disabilities and their families, when affected by dementia, are considered as part of this national strategy.

The overall goal of the NTG is to review and update the technological and clinical practices used by agencies in delivering supports and services to adults with ID affected the various dementias and produce a document which will

(1) suggest a workable screening instrument that will help substantiate suspicions of dementia-related decline
(2) produce a new set of practice guidelines for post-determination health care and supports, and
(3) examine and recommend models of community-based support and long term care of persons with ID affected by dementia.

The National Task Group has been organized around three working groups: (1) Dementia Screening [Group S]; (2) Health Care Supports [Group H], and (3) Community Supports [Group C].

The National Task Group will convene in St. Paul, Minnesota, on Monday, June 6th, before the start of the annual conference of the AAIDD. Each working group is preparing a preliminary report reflecting the group's objective. The NTG's full-day meeting will be used to discuss these reports, gain consensus, and make recommendations with respect to the findings. A draft of the overall National Task Group report will be circulated over the summer for broader input and comments and a final report will be prepared and issued in the fall of 2011.

For more information, access www.aadmd.org/ntg