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RI ADULT DAY SERVICE ASSOCIATION OFFICIALLY DISSOLVES

RIAFSA Becomes Singular Voice for Adult Day Providers in RI

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, June 8, 2009: Citing rapid changes in regulations and funding affecting providers, the Rhode Island Adult Day Services Association (RIADSA) has officially shut its doors. Founded in 1988, the association was run by volunteer staff and members who decided to disband and alternatively partner with the Rhode Island Association of Facilities and Services for the Aging (RIAFSA) which represents Rhode Island's non-profit nursing homes, assisted living, senior housing, and adult day care providers and has a full-time staff.

"By joining forces with RIAFSA, we are confident that our voice as an industry will be heard more powerfully and clearly," said former president of RIADSA, Cynthia Conant-Arp. "Ongoing funding challenges, as well as the evolution of our long-term care system under the new Global Medicaid Waiver, make it imperative that member advocacy for adult day health service beneficiaries is heard at the state house and beyond. "With RIAFSA's additional, full-time resources, we can better monitor and respond to the ever-changing legislative and economic environment in which we operate."

"Our mission is to represent seniors along the long-term care spectrum. With the addition of these adult day providers, we will enhance our representation of the needs of seniors in all settings," said RIAFSA Director James P. Nyberg. "With unprecedented cutbacks and changes to funding systems for the elderly, we are hopeful that our voice will be heard with a larger and more diverse range of non-profit nursing homes, assisted living, senior housing, and adult day care providers."

Adult day health centers are licensed by the Department of Health and provide intensive services to frail and impaired older adults, including care management, nursing, nutritional, therapeutic, personal care, and educational and family support services - all in a protective, medically supervised daytime setting. It is a cost-effective care alternative that:

- Make days fuller, richer and more enjoyable for participants.
- Help protect participants' health by providing nursing and personal care services, as well as nutrition, social stimulation, and therapeutic activities.
- Allow participants' families and other caregivers maintain employment, attend to other responsibilities or simply take some much-needed time for themselves.
- Make it possible for participants to stay active and in the community rather than being placed in nursing homes before it's truly necessary.

New adult day service provider members of RIAFSA are:

Bristol: Cornerstone Adult Services

Coventry: Cornerstone Adult Services
Cranston: Hope Alzheimer's Center
Little Compton: Nancy Brayton Osborn
Middletown: Forest Farm Adult Day Services
North Providence: Fruit Hill Day Services for the Elderly
Providence: Jewish Seniors To Life Center
Warren: The Willows Adult Day Care
Warwick: Cornerstone Alzheimer's Care Center
Warwick: Cornerstone Apponaug Center
Westerly: Westerly Adult Day Services
Woonsocket: Alternative Adult Care

With the addition of these new members, RIAFSA now represents over 40 providers of aging services in Rhode Island.

RIAFSA was founded in 1989 and represents the continuum of long-term care providers in Rhode Island, including not-for-profit nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and senior housing providers, as well as adult day health centers. The mission of the association is to advance excellence in the field by fostering innovation, collaboration, and ethical leadership; advocating for sound public policy; providing education, collaboration, and professional development; valuing older people and their right to make choices; and promoting a continuum of services. RIAFSA is an affiliate of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging.

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