The Next 20 Years in Family Caregiving

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American Aging on Society
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Overview: The Next 20 Years in Family Caregiving

March 21, 2016
American Aging on Society
Gail Gibson Hunt, President & CEO, National Alliance for Caregiving
The state of caregiving: 1996

- No federal programs for family caregivers
- Only a few states had developed services for family caregivers
  - These became the model for the National Family Caregiver Support Program, enacted in 2000
- Little awareness of family caregiving as a major issue
Caregiving today

- Much greater awareness of caregiving as a public health issue
- Some federal support, including:
  - National Family Caregiver Support Program, under OAA
  - Lifespan Respite Program
  - Veterans Caregiver Support Program
- Expanded AAA and ADRC network in the states
- More research on different aspects of caregiving
- Employer interest, such as the ReACT Coalition
- International attention, such as IACO and the World Dementia Council
What’s next?
We’re facing a mid-century “Care Gap”

Home care becomes increasingly important

Number of Home Health Aides Employed in the Home Health Care Services Industry, 2012 and 2022 (Projected)


Caregivers are diverse and need culturally competent support

Men are “stepping up to the plate” as family caregivers.

Multi-generation households & families are on the rise.
Technology is changing how families communicate & care

- Care Coordination
- Telehealth
- Information & Support Groups

Technology has changed how we work...

- Video/Digital Conferences
- Teleworking
- Flexible Leave

Source: https://www.flickr.com/photos/socialeurope/4303391587/in/photostream
...and technology – both assistive & mobile – have changed how we move.

Source: https://www.thezebra.com/insurance-news/2651/uber-lyft-handicap-accessibility
The Elephant in the Room:
The Cost of Long-Term Care

• 2013 - Sebelius on the CLASS Act: “I Do Not See a Viable Path Forward”

• Congressional Long Term Care Commission – No consensus, no further action

• Bipartisan Policy Center’s new report may offer a path forward

Sources: http://khn.org/morning-breakout/class-act-4/
What’s next?

What the public sector could do now, to prepare for the future

- Provide benefits for caregivers as members of the health care team, ideally under Medicare & Medicaid
- Expand support for caregivers
  - Broaden the National Family Caregiver Support Program to caregivers across the lifespan
  - Support all caregivers of Vets, not just post-9/11
  - Provide tax and social security credits
- Work towards paid family/medical leave
- Address the growing health care and long-term care costs
Caregiving as a “social movement” supported by social media and tech

Create better, affordable technologies to reduce caregiver burden and improve the care experience

Integrate the family caregiver into health care delivery models

View caregivers as partners during care transitions (such as hospital to home)

Improve support for employed caregivers in the workplace
Thank You

Gail Gibson Hunt
President/CEO
National Alliance for Caregiving

www.caregiving.org