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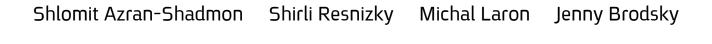**MYERS-JDC-BROOKDALE**
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Division for Research on Aging

Review of Programs for Family Caregivers of People with Dementia

Shlomit Azran–Shadmon ▪ Shirli Resnizky ▪ Michal Laron ▪ Jenny Brodsky

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RESEARCH REPORT

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of People with Dementia

Shlomit Azran-Shadmon   Shirli Resnizky   Michal Laron   Jenny Brodsky

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Related Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute Publications

Berg-Warman, A., Brodsky, J., Laron, M., Spalter, T., and Resnizky, S. .(2016). ***Support Groups for Family Caregivers of Elders with Disabilities: Evaluation Study.*** Published by the National Insurance Institute, Fund for the Development of Long-Term Care Services (Hebrew only).

Bentur, N., Laron, M., Palach, A., Sternberg, S., Radomyslsky, Z., Vardi, D. and Ben Zion, I. (2016). ***Quality of Care for Dementia Patients, their Unmet Needs and those of their Families***. RR-733-16 (Hebrew).

Bentur, N., Sternberg, S. and Shuldiner, J. (2015). ***Assessing the Quality of End-of-Life Care for Older Persons with Advanced Dementia Living in the Community.*** RR-652-15 (Hebrew).

Brodsky, J., Bentur, N., Laron, M. and Ben-Israel, S. (2013). ***Addressing Alzheimer's and Other Types of Dementia: Israeli National Strategy Summary Document of the Interdisciplinary, Inter-Organizational Group of Experts***. RR-648-13 (Hebrew).

Brodsky, J., Resnizky, S. and Citron, D. (2011). ***Issues in Family Care of the Elderly: Characteristics of Care, Burden on Family Members, and Support Programs***. RR-508-11 (Hebrew).

Wertman, E., Brodsky, J., King, J., Bentur, N. and Chekhmir, S. (2005). ***Elderly People with Dementia: Prevalence, Identification of Unmet Needs and Priorities in the Development of Services.*** RR-461-05 (Hebrew).

Reports and English summaries (unless otherwise noted) can be downloaded free of charge from the Institute website: brookdale.jdc.org.il

Abstract

Background

One of the most significant challenges facing Israeli society with regard to the aging population is coping with an increasing number of dementia patients. The illness is the second leading cause of disability among the elderly aged 70+ and is considered one of the most distressing and difficult conditions for the patients and their families. Due to its extensive implications, dementia is a challenge for the health and social service systems and its economic impact on society is considerable. In 2013, a national dementia program was drawn up, which emphasized the need to relate specifically to the needs of family caregivers of elderly dementia patients – in other words to treat them as a target population of the service system in their own right.

Survey Goals

The review describes a range of programs implemented in various parts of the world to provide assistance to family caregivers of people with dementia. The goal of the review was to present innovative, up-to-date programmatic directions and programs that are less well known in Israel and could improve the caregivers' quality of life and help them to withstand the difficulties and burden of care.

Structure and Methodology

The review presents significant assistance programs offered to family caregivers around the world (and those currently being developed), which were found through a Google search on the internet. Chapter 3, which describes the review, is divided according to the types of program found in the search. Each section starts with a description of the type of program, giving examples from different countries, followed by a description of programs of the same type in Israel, and concludes with a reference to this type of program from the perspective of the family caregivers who participated in the four focus groups we conducted. The following chapter describes a discussion held in the forum of organizations for family caregivers following our presentation of the survey, with regard to prioritization of the various programs and their implementation in Israel.

Findings

The programs found on the internet can be grouped in the following categories: Respite and relief programs; emotional support (group or individual) programs; coordination and care management programs including help with decision-making; information and training programs (frontal or online); and programs providing assistance in the workplace.

The family caregivers were most familiar with support group services and expressed a great need for information about the services, their rights and ways of coping with the symptoms of dementia. The discussion brought up the need for cultural sensitivity and adaptation of the programs. In the forum of organizations of family caregivers there was broad agreement about prioritizing a coordination/care

management program for a broad population of family caregivers of dementia patients, particularly in the early stages of caring.

This review was commissioned by the Ministry of Health and JDC-Israel ESHEL, which will use the findings to select services and programs for family caregivers of people with dementia to ease the care burden and enhance their quality of life.

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