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MEMBER



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## DEMENTIA CASES AND COSTS

Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) recently published the World Alzheimer Report 2010, *The Global Impact of Dementia*. ADI is the international federation of Alzheimer associations throughout the world. The report includes information regarding the global cost of dementia and projections on the numbers of dementia case in the future. The report was written by Martin Prince, M.D., of Britain's King's College London Institute of Psychiatry and Anders Wimo, M.D., of Sweden's Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, and expanded on the findings of the World Alzheimer Report 2009.

The report estimates that there are 36.5 million people living with dementia worldwide (approximately 0.5% of the world's population), and this figure is likely to increase to 65.7 million people by 2030 and 115.4 million by 2050. Approximately two-thirds of those with dementia live in low and middle income countries. A high proportion of persons with dementia need some care, from assistance with the activities of daily living, to full personal care and total supervision.

The authors report that the total estimated worldwide costs of dementia in 2010 is approximately \$604 billion. They say that if dementia care were a country, it would be the world's 18th largest economy, ranking between Turkey and Indonesia. If dementia care were a company, it would be the world's largest by annual revenue, exceeding companies such as Wal-Mart and Exxon Mobil. Approximately 70% of the dementia care costs occur in Western Europe and North America. Direct costs of medical care, including costs of treating dementia and other conditions in primary and secondary care, are one component of overall cost, and comprise approximately 16% of total costs worldwide. Medical care includes costs of hospital care, medication, and visits to clinics. Direct costs of social care include care provided by community care professionals and in residential home settings, such as home care, food supply, and transport, and residential or nursing home care. Costs of informal care provided by family and others is the third cost component. Informal care includes the time the family caregivers spend

providing assistance with the basic activities of daily living, and with other activities of daily living such as managing finances, transportation and preparing food. The direct costs of social care and the cost of informal care comprise approximately 42% each of the total costs. In low and middle income countries, however, informal care accounts for the majority of total costs.

The report predicts that the costs of dementia care will soar, estimating an 85% increase based only on the predicted increase of persons with dementia. Costs in the low and middle income countries may rise faster than in high income countries because of economic development on the low and middle income countries. The authors recommend development of cost-effective packages of medical and social care, so that the needs of persons with dementia and their caregivers can be met. They also recommend development of evidence-based prevention strategies to meet the challenge of dementia and prepare for the future. The *Oast & Hook News* will continue to monitor and report on developments in dementia care.

The attorneys at Oast & Hook can assist clients and their families with their life care, estate, insurance, financial, veterans benefits and special needs planning issues.

### **Ask Allie**

O&H: Allie, we've heard about a dog duo that visits a local assisted living facility. Please tell us about them.

Allie: Sure! Tori and Cergue are Bernese mountain dogs who visit residents at Morningside Assisted Living Community in Newport News. The dogs have been visiting the center on a weekly basis for eight years, and are trained therapy dogs. Their training permits them to visit with residents who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or dementia. Some residents meet the dogs in the lobby, while others have personal visits in their rooms. Owner Balir Turrentine says, "There are people that don't talk, yet they respond when the dogs come in." During the therapy sessions the dogs refrain from barking and running. Morningside residents are allowed to have pets, but the facility also likes to bring in Tori and Cergue for residents who are not able to care for pets. They also visit residents at Colonial Manor in Williamsburg. What a great idea! I liked working at the office at Oast & Hook and visiting with the staff and clients. I was not a trained therapy cat, but I hope having me around helped the clients feel more comfortable when they came in. I'm really enjoying my retirement and writing my column for the *Oast & Hook News*. Time to go get something to eat. See you next week!

### **Announcements**

Oast & Hook attorney Brian A. Boys will speak on the topic of veterans benefits from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 12th at Commonwealth Memory Care located at 1516 Harmon Street, Norfolk, Virginia 23518. For more information on this presentation, please phone Jennie Dell at 757-399-7506.

Oast & Hook attorney Sandra Smith will speak on the topic of estate planning from 10:00 a.m. to noon, Monday, October 18th at Fort Monroe. For more information on this presentation, please phone Jennie Dell at 757-399-7506.

Oast & Hook attorney Sandra Smith will speak on the topic of estate planning from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Saturday, October 23rd at Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church located at 94 West Lincoln Street, Hampton, Virginia 23669. For more information on this church, please visit [www.bethelhame.com](http://www.bethelhame.com).

Oast & Hook attorney Letha McDowell will speak on the topic of veterans benefits from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Saturday, November 6th at King's Grant House located at 440 North Lynnhaven Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23452. For more information on this presentation, please phone Jennie Dell at 757-399-7506.

### **Distribution of This Newsletter**

Oast & Hook encourages you to share this newsletter with anyone who is interested in issues pertaining to the elderly, the disabled and their advocates. The information in this newsletter may be copied and distributed, without charge and without permission, but with appropriate citation to Oast & Hook, P.C. If you are interested in a free subscription to the *Oast & Hook News*, then please e-mail us at [mail@oasthook.com](mailto:mail@oasthook.com), telephone us at 757-399-7506, or fax us at 757-397-1267.

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