

Job Description: Family Alzheimer's In-Home Respite (FAIR) Direct Care Worker Congregate

Caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease can be extremely stressful, and family caregivers need a regular break. The Family Alzheimer's In-Home Respite (FAIR) Program was created to address this need. FAIR is different from other care programs. It provides a break for the *family caregiver, who is the service recipient*, and, at the same time, engages the *care receiver, the person with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia*, in meaningful activities.

The FAIR worker reports to _____ and is responsible for the following:

Training:

- Attend the provider agency orientation.
- Prior to providing care for an individual with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia, complete the dementia care training, *The Person Comes First: A Practical Approach to Alzheimer's Care*, and all other training required by the FAIR Program and the provider agency.
- Within the first year of employment, complete additional training, including the following requirements: communication skills; geriatric, social and psychological needs of clients; client rights; and the role of the respite worker.
- Attend any other training deemed necessary by the provider agency.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Review the personal histories of the care receivers assigned to you to help you get to know each person. As you learn more about each individual for whom you are providing care, inform your supervisor of any additional information you obtain that may be helpful in caring for that person.
- Monitor and provide for each care receiver's needs in the caregiver's absence.
- To provide socialization and stimulation for the care receiver, through the respite center's activity schedule, taking into account each person's likes and dislikes, interests, abilities, and individual needs. Inform your supervisor of any activities the person enjoys that are not on the Activity Schedule or any activities on the schedule that he/she can no longer do.
- Report any significant changes in the care receiver to your supervisor.
- Record all activities engaged in with the care receiver on the Worker Notes form. In the FAIR Congregate Respite Program, personal care and chores are *not* part of your work, with the following exceptions: It is expected that you will provide assistance with toileting or incontinence needs when necessary. You should also provide the care receiver with an appropriate meal or snack if he/she is at the center when either should be served.
- ***Remember that anything can be an activity, as long as the focus is on the care receiver and the care receiver is included, to the fullest extent possible, in everything you do. Activities are all of the things you do together.***