

Individuals with Disabilities: Alzheimer's and Dementia



Presented by Dawn Hocking
Director of Development
dawnhocking@tch-az.com

People with disabilities are living longer

Due to:

- Advanced health care
- Less isolation
- More mobility
- Increased physical activities
- Better preventative care/earlier diagnosis



The Challenge is

New medical issues/age related diseases:



- Increase in Diabetes
- Increase in cancer diagnosis
- Alzheimer's and Dementia
- And other age related diseases



For Example:

- The average age of individuals in TCH programs is 45 years old
- 10% of individuals served at TCH are 65 years of age and older
- In 1980 an individual with Down syndrome had an expected life span of 25 years, today it is 60 years of age
- On average, TCH conducts 99 medical appointments per month for individuals that live in a TCH group home



Alzheimer's and Dementia

- By age 50 – 30% of individuals with Down syndrome have Alzheimer's/Dementia and by age 60 it increases to 50%
- The medical profession has a more difficult time diagnosing and treating individuals with developmental disabilities
- Transportation becomes more difficult and critical



Why is this important?

- Individuals are outliving their families leading to concerns of living arrangements and who will provide care
- Diagnosis is more difficult for some individuals with disabilities
- Ensuring Health care needs are met
- Understanding changes in behavior/ability levels and providing services to meet changing needs
- Providing opportunities for community inclusion

