

Alzheimer's Disease Partnership

Code of Conduct

The Alzheimer's Disease Partnership (Partnership) is multi-sector and has existed since 2009. The Partnership is a voluntary, civil network and holds no assets. Membership is open to any individual who commits to its mission. Members may represent public, private, and non-profit organizations; or themselves as citizens, volunteers, people with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias (ADRD), or caregivers.

Members of the Partnership contribute valuable subject matter expertise and efforts to achieving the goals of the [Texas State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease 2024-2028](#). The Partnership works to reduce the impact of ADRD in Texas through positive and respectful collaborations among members.

This code of conduct is in alignment with the mission and operating principles of the Partnership and establishes expectations of members. Members following this code of conduct contribute to the respectful and successful collaboration of the Partnership.

- Members should promote and contribute to a positive, supportive, and respectful collaborative environment. Language or behavior that is unprofessional, intimidating, hostile, offensive, disparaging of healthcare or other providers, or harassing or taken as such will not be tolerated on any of DSHS's platforms (e.g., e-mail, meetings, web-based collaboration and document management sites, social media sites, etc.). This may result in the immediate ending of a discussion, meeting, access to information, or membership.
- Members are encouraged to share ideas and participate in discussions related to strategic planning and the prioritization of goals, objectives, and activities in work plans. To create a safe, information-sharing, and collaborative environment, members have access to the Partnership's online collaboration and document management SharePoint (i.e., Alzheimer's Disease Partnership). While information shared during meetings is for the public, information shared through SharePoint is confidential and must not be shared with non-members.
- As a statewide Partnership, members may meet through virtual meetings. To create a safe, information-sharing, and collaborative environment, members must refrain from using and should remove or block artificial intelligence bots from joining meetings. A member may take meeting notes, but the recording of meetings is not allowed, and any artificial intelligence use is not permitted.
- A conflict of interest exists when a member's private interest conflicts or interferes with participation in the Partnership. Members should disclose any personal, business, or volunteer affiliations that may be a conflict of interest. Members must abstain from



considering or voting on issues that would provide personal monetary or other gain or that present or reasonably appear to present as a conflict of interest.

- Members must not sell or market any product or service to members and/or any meeting participant on any Partnership platform or within Partnership activities.
- Members should not offer medical advice to other members or presenters or attempt to persuade a meeting participant to follow specific treatment recommendations. ADP is not responsible for any outcomes if a participant chooses to seek medical advice from other members. Members should not share personal health information during the meeting or over chat.
- Members must not disclose contact information acquired via any Partnership platforms unless they have received written permission from the member concerned.
- The Partnership does not participate in partisan political activity, and members should refrain from making partisan political comments on any of the Partnership platforms.
- As a multi-sectoral Partnership, members come from various types of organizations and sectors of the community. Each has different rules for how and when to engage in legislative or advocacy activities and communicate with decision makers. No DSHS staff may lobby lawmakers or advocate for funding or for the initiation or passage of any type of legislation. DSHS staff and Partnership members must follow Texas rules and their organizations' policy when getting involved with public policy issues. Partnership members outside of Texas must also follow their states' rules.
- People impacted by ADRD can share resources and experiences to make a difference in the lives of others. ADP recognizes that discussions may be sensitive, and that individuals impacted by ADRD, as well as caregivers, may require time to process their experiences and emotions. ADP encourages all members to be mindful of their well-being and personal circumstances. Should coalition activities become overwhelming or difficult to manage, members are encouraged to take a break from participation and return when they feel ready. Participation is always voluntary, and the well-being of each member is a priority.