

Elder Friendly Futures 2017

Long-Distance Caregiving

Joanne Maher, Director of Programs and Services, Alzheimer's Association Washington State
D'Anna Edison, Geriatric Mental Health Specialist and Care Manager, Aging Wisdom

JOANNE MAHER BIO

Joanne Maher, MSW, joined the Alzheimer's Association, Washington State Chapter, in 2006. She holds a Masters in Social Work from the University of Washington. Joanne has over 20 years of professional experience working with diverse adult populations in different settings. As Director of Programs and Services at the Chapter, she leads a team of professionals in 6 departments that work directly with families, friends, and relatives of persons experiencing memory loss, as well as those individuals with Alzheimer's and related dementias. Ms. Maher works closely with academic communities, government agencies, and other social service providers throughout the State. In addition to her work at the Alzheimer's Association, Joanne serves on a number of community-based committees, and is actively involved in the planning of a several yearly conferences related to dementia, aging, and caregiving issues.

D'ANNA EDISON BIO

D'Anna M. Edison, MS, GMHS, LMHCA, CMC is a Geriatric Mental Health Specialist with a Master of Science degree in Professional Counseling with an emphasis in Gerontology and a BA in Communic Theory and Psychology. She has worked with older adults for the last 20 years, having started as an activities assistant in a skilled nursing facility, then working in geriatric mental health, social work in skilled nursing, and most recently as a residential health services director at a continuing care retirement community. D'Anna's abilities to engage, listen to and advocate on behalf of residents have prepared her well for her role as Care Manager Associate at Aging Wisdom. She confesses that "I can't tell a joke to save my life and when we have family get-togethers, I remember all the family stories but never the card games we've played hundreds of times." This is also a reflection of the special quality she brings to each client relationship: "I have a strong desire to be present with clients. I may not be able to change circumstances, but I am willing to assist the best I can to make things just a bit easier." When not working, D'Anna loves spending time with her husband and daughter, getting together with friends, traveling to see family, and cheering on the Seahawks.