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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Department of Elder Affairs Announces Alachua County and the City of Gainesville as New Dementia-Caring Community

~ Local task force commits to support residents affected by dementia~

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) today announced that Alachua County and the City of Gainesville have joined the Dementia Care and Cure Initiative (DCCI) to create a more dementia-sensitive community where individuals with dementia, their families, and caregivers can lead active and purposeful lives and have better access to important support and resources.

There are more than 4,400 individuals living with probable Alzheimer's disease in Alachua County and nearly 52,000 more in the surrounding counties. These figures only represent one form of dementia, and they do not include the tens of thousands of families and caregivers affected by the disease.

"Florida has the second highest incidence of Alzheimer's disease in the nation, and even more are affected by other forms of dementia," said Department of Elder Affairs Secretary Jeffrey Bragg. "Across the state, we are working with communities to support those diagnosed with dementia, their families, and caregivers. I am hopeful about this new partnership as we tackle such an important issue and work together to better the lives of those affected by dementia in Alachua and the surrounding counties."

The goals of the Dementia Care and Cure Initiative are to increase awareness of dementia, as well as the services and supports currently available; assist communities to become more dementia caring and create a supportive and engaging environment; and advocate for programs that provide care and promote research efforts towards a cure.

"Elder Options is excited to be leading the development of the state's ninth Dementia Care and Cure Initiative Task Force," said Kristen Griffis, Executive Director for Elder Options, the regional Aging and Disability Resource Center. "Alzheimer's disease is a public health crisis that affects more than 5 million Americans. Caring for a person with Alzheimer's disease or another form of dementia is challenging, and there is a growing demand for information about the latest research, treatment and approaches to care. We feel this task force is a great way to bring partners in the community together to find ways to make the greater Gainesville Community more dementia friendly."

With the announcement also comes the Inaugural Meeting of the local Dementia Care and Cure Initiative Task Force. The Task Force is led by Elder Options, the regional Aging and Disability Resource Center, and the University of Florida Memory Disorder Clinic. Other members include representatives from Alzheimer's disease and dementia advocacy groups, city and county staff, health care professionals, caregivers and others affected by dementia, and other local aging services providers.

WHAT: Inaugural Gainesville/Alachua DCCI Task Force Meeting

WHERE: Elder Options
100 SW 75th Street, Suite 301
Gainesville, FL 32607

WHEN: Wednesday, September 26, 2018
1:00 p.m.

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