PLANNING LIVE, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ASSET MAPPING FOR A DEMENTIA E-FRIENDLY ALABAMA

NSF Project: 1951974

Nicole Ruggiano, University of Alabama

Award Type: PG, FY2020

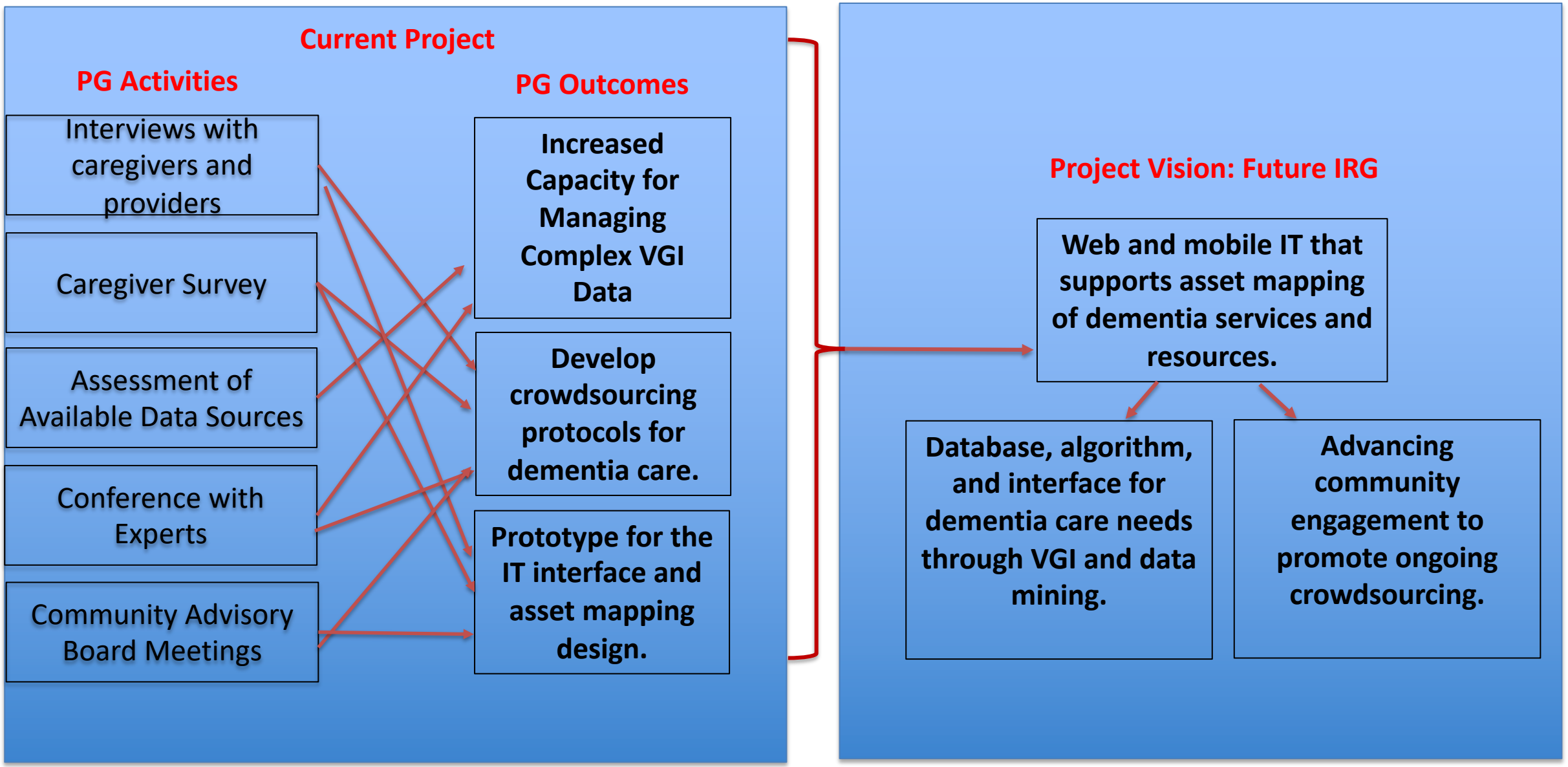
Principal Research Investigators

- Nicole Ruggiano (PI), PhD, MSW
- University of Ala. School of Social Work
- Monica Anderson (co-PI), PhD
- University of Alabama College of Engineering
- Zhe Jiang (co-PI), PhD
- University of Alabama College of Engineering
- Jeff Gray (Co-I), PhD
- University of Alabama College of Engineering

Community Partners

- Commissioner Jean Brown, Alabama Department of Senior Services
- Ms. Miller Piggot, Alzheimer's of Central Alabama
- Ms. Carolyn Fortner, Middle Alabama Area Agency on Aging
- Dr. Daniel Potts, Neurologist
- Dr. Samory Pruitt, Vice President of Community Affairs at the University of Alabama
- Ms. Julie McGee, Association of Alabama Areas on Aging
- Mr. Hornsby Sams, Resident of City of Tuskegee

Project Overview



Project Overview

Use-Inspired Research

- Caregivers of people living with dementia (PLWD) in Alabama lack knowledge and access to services and resources that can support dementia caregiving and care.
- The vision and activities for this project was informed by prior community-based research with caregivers and providers as well as community partners in the targeted communities:
  - Birmingham, AL
  - Mobile, AL
  - Montgomery, AL
  - Tuscaloosa, AL

PG Activities

- Convened first Community Advisory Committee meeting. Follow-up interviews.
- Conducted interviews with providers of dementia-related services.
- Submitted conference abstract.
- Conduct interviews with caregivers of PLWD.
- Plan 1-Day virtual conference with VGI/crowdsourcing experts.
- Qualitative Data Analysis.
- Conduct statewide survey of caregivers and providers; Quantitative Data Analysis.
- Prototype Development.

Project Update

- Provider and caregiver input informs the development of our proposed IT protocol.
- Community advisory board meetings are informing current and future IRG proposal.
- Initiating data analysis for survey and crowdsource protocol development.
- Conference plans will increase the team's capacity for managing complex VGI data.

Goal: Improved Quality of Life

Project Evolution

What We've Learned:

- We learned that caregivers of PLWD typically wait to access services until they are completely overwhelmed, which may have a negative impact on the quality of services they are able to access.
- The greatest service need among caregivers is in-home respite and support.
- Agencies vary in safety protocols and quality of training of in-home providers.

How It's Impacting the Project:

How do we develop an IT that requires agencies to crowdsource their information while also facilitating trust and safety for the families that use the IT to access services?