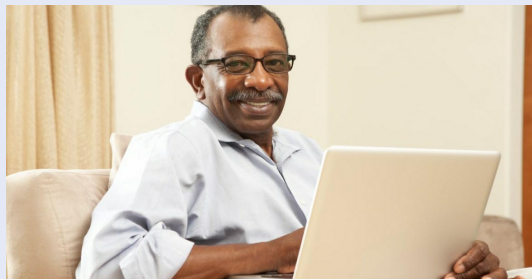


June 23, 2021

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Learning and Action Network News



News:

Congratulations! Trust for America's Health (TFAH) is excited to announce that the New York State Department of Health is the first health department to be recognized as an Age-Friendly Public Health System, having completed all of the requirements of TFAH's Age-Friendly Public Health Systems (AFPHS) Recognition Program. This success is attributable to the leadership and commitment of the New York public health system in embracing the many roles and collaborations necessary to improve and sustain the health and well-being of older New Yorkers.

TFAH's AFPHS Recognition Program is designed to encourage and support state and local health departments as they commit to improving and supporting older adult health. While completing the steps for the program, the NY team commented how straightforward and easy it was to make progress towards this goal. Congratulations again to the New York State Department of Health!

Events and Opportunities:

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Monthly Trainings

Paid caregivers, family members, and other informal caregivers are the largest sources of support for older adults in this country. These important contributors to the health of older adults need support themselves from multiple sectors and at multiple levels. The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the need for public health to continue providing resources, information, and support for caregivers.

TFAH's July AFPHS training will focus on caregiving as a public health issue and how public health agencies can support caregivers in their important roles. The speakers for this session are:

- Mike Wittke, Vice President, Research and Advocacy - National Alliance for Caregiving
- Dr. David Bass, Senior Vice President, Senior Research Scientist, Director of the Center for Research and Education – Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging

This session will occur on **Thursday, July 15th at 3:00 pm ET**. Register [here](#).

You can also view a recording of our June training – [Healthy Brain Initiative Roadmap](#) for public health.

Elder Abuse in People Living with Dementia: Considerations for Prevention,

Detection, and Intervention – *Wednesday, June 23, 2021, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET.* Hosted by the National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center, this webinar will discuss elder abuse of people living with dementia. A physician and an attorney will share indicators of concern, provide practical tips on when and how to intervene, and highlight the issue of capacity. Register [here](#).

The Legacy Interviews – *Wednesdays, June 23 – September 8, 2021, 4:00 pm ET.* The American Society on Aging's 12-week webcast series will feature interviews from leaders with decades of experience in the fields of aging, health and social services. The interviews will be conducted by Dr. Ken Dychtwald. Register [here](#).

Achieving Health Equity for People with Disabilities During the Pandemic and Beyond – *Monday, June 28, 2021, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm ET* The National Institute for Health Care Management Foundation is offering a webinar that will explore challenges related to accessing care among individuals with disabilities, including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and strategies to address these diverse needs to work towards health equity. Register [here](#).

The Evidence Hour: Preventing and Reducing Violence Against Older Adults – *Tuesday, June 29, 2021, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET* The Center for Victim Research is joining the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide an overview of elder abuse and present findings from a recent systematic review related to interventions. Register [here](#).

Grantmakers In Aging Webinar on Age-Friendly Public Health Systems – *Tuesday, June 29, 2021, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET.* Join Grantmakers In Aging to learn about TFAH's Age-Friendly Public Health Systems initiative and how the initiative's framework has been put into action with multiple stakeholders and partners across the country. The webinar will highlight opportunities to engage with potential funders to help public health departments expand their roles in healthy aging. Register [here](#).

Preparing for the Next Pandemic: Strengthening the U.S. Public Health System – *Tuesday, June 29, 2021, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm ET* The Bipartisan Policy Center's Future of Health Care Initiative will release a new report during this virtual event that provides critical steps policymakers can take to strengthen the public health system for inevitable emergencies. The policy recommendations included in the report address three key areas: intergovernmental roles and responsibilities, data infrastructure, and public health financing. Register [here](#).

Public Health Considerations and Models for Cultural Adaptations in Dementia Caregiving – *Wednesday, June 30, 2021, 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm ET* Led by the BOLD Public Health Center of Excellence on Dementia Caregiving (PHCOE-DC) and UsAgainstAlzheimer's Center for Brain Health Equity, the first webinar in this three-part series will provide background and context on the unique and pivotal role that culture plays in dementia caregiving. The webinar will focus on methods for putting these practices into action. Register [here](#).

COVID-19: Disaster Preparedness and Vulnerable Populations – *July 1st & July 15, 2021, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm ET.* Parts 2 and 3 of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's disaster preparedness workshop series will focus on issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic and disaster preparedness for special populations. The first webinar, held on June 17, 2021, focused on disaster planning and response activities that meet the needs of the whole community. The second webinar will focus on home health workers providing services to individuals living with disabilities and older adults. The third webinar will consider the needs of individuals living with disabilities and older adults and efforts to ensure these populations are included in disaster planning. Register [here](#).

Advancing Equity in Aging – *July 12-16, 2021.* This American Society on Aging forum will bring together leaders from the field of aging to provide strategies organizations can implement to create an inclusive and equitable aging society. Register [here](#).

engAGED Virtual Aging Network Social Engagement Summit – *Thursday, July 22, 2021, 12:45 pm – 2:15 pm.* The engAGED Social Engagement Summit will highlight

creative solutions to improving engagement among older adults that can be replicated at the local level. In addition, several national resources and initiatives to support social engagement efforts will be shared. Register [here](#).

Funding Opportunity – Community Care Corps Issues Request for Proposals

Community Care Corps, funded by ACL, has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for innovative local models of programs designed to support family caregivers. The purpose of the project is to establish, enhance, or grow volunteer programs for family caregivers, older adults, and people with disabilities. Faith and community-based organizations, institutions of higher education, service organizations, and state, county, and local governments are encouraged to apply. Proposals are due by **Friday, July 9, 2021**. More information can be found [here](#).

Resources:

COVID-19

Vaccinating People that are Homebound

A new blogpost co-authored by The John A. Hartford Foundation and Trust for America's Health and [published on the Better Care Playbook website](#) emphasizes the role of public health in vaccinating individuals that are homebound. In addition to providing an overview of the [Ensuring Access to COVID-19 Vaccines for Older Adults and People with Disabilities Who Are Homebound policy brief](#), the post highlights some of the brief's recommendations: define the population, share information, leverage trusted relationships, equitably vaccinate people who are homebound, and diversify and expand the vaccinator pool.

New Infographic Highlights Inequalities in the Native American Community

[A new National Institute for Health Care Management infographic](#) illustrates the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Native American community. This infographic also shows how these disparities can be linked to underlying social and economic inequities. In the Navajo Nation, for example, one third of residents do not have access to running water and/or electricity. They also have challenges accessing broadband internet.

Older Adult COVID-19 Cases Decrease as Vaccination Rates Increase

[According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Preventions Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#), the number of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, emergency department visits and fatalities were lower this spring among US adults age 70 and older. Compared with adults ages 18 to 49 years, there were 40% fewer coronavirus cases among adults age 70 years and older. As of May 1, 82% of adults age 65 and older in the United States had received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, compared to 42% of those ages 18 to 49.

Reviewing the Accessibility of Vaccination Sites

To promote the inclusion of people living with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials placed 14 disability and preparedness specialists in health agencies. [This brief](#) highlights the experiences of three of these specialists. Their perspectives and recommendations for expanding vaccine site accessibility are also included.

Lyft Partners with the National Council on Aging for Rides to Vaccine Appointments

The National Council on Aging, in partnership with Lyft, created vaccine ride codes so that older adults can get [rides to and from appointments](#) for each dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The codes will allow coverage for up to \$50 for the roundtrip. These codes are entered into the Rewards section of the Lyft app immediately before a ride is ordered. This program is designed to support low-income, uninsured, and at-risk communities, including older adults and people of color. These codes are valid until through December 31, 2021.

Other Resources

Supportive Robots for Older Adults

Six in-home robotic assistants, created by developers across the world, are leading the way in providing support to older adults in their homes. These robotic assistants include a pillow with a dog-like tail, a household assistant for chores, and a robot to answer calls and organize daily life electronically. These devices are designed to provide social support, connection and health services.

Impact of Stress from Discrimination on Health

In recent a National Public Radio (NPR) story, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Trustee Dr. David Williams reported on data from a **[survey of 3,453 people conducted by the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, RWJF and NPR on how discrimination impacts health, specifically among African Americans.](#)** Ninety-two percent of African-Americans surveyed were most likely to agree that discrimination exists. When asked further about their personal experiences, 32% of African Americans say they have personally experienced racial discrimination when going to a doctor or a health clinic; 22% have avoided seeking medical care out of concern about discrimination. Dr. Williams has also developed **[resources and perspectives related to racism and health](#)**, including an Everyday Discrimination Scale.

Making Cognitive Screening Part of Routine Screening

Results from an Alzheimer's Association survey reveal that 93% of older adults trust their doctor to recommend testing for memory and thinking problems, but fewer than half of primary care physicians say it is part of their standard protocol. Seventy-eight percent of primary care physicians report having any training in dementia diagnoses and care. Within this group, however, 65 percent note that the amount of training was "very little." A recently released report from the Milken Institute's Alliance to Improve Dementia Care, **[Building Workforce Capacity to Improve Detection and Diagnosis of Dementia](#)**, recommends using training materials, toolkits and workflow protocols to make cognitive screening a routine part of any primary care visit for people ages 65 and older.

Considerations for Expanding Home and Community-Based Services

The Bipartisan Policy Center has released a new issue brief highlighting the key challenges and opportunities identified in expanding the Medicaid home and community-based services benefit. The **[Key Considerations for Developing a Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Benefit issue brief](#)** also outlines policy options for congressional consideration.

Improving Pandemic Responses

The National Homeland Security Consortium has released a report with 90 recommendations to improve pandemic readiness. This **[after-action report](#)** also includes 37 best practices for improving preparedness and response for future pandemics.

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