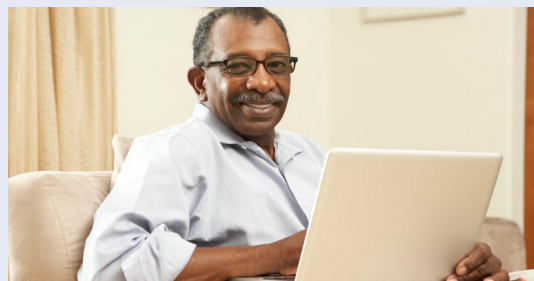


February 23, 2022

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Learning and Action Network News



News:

TFAH Adds New Component to the Framework for Creating Age-Friendly Public Health Systems

Trust for America's Health (TFAH) believes that every state and local health department must elevate healthy aging as a core function. To facilitate this transformation, TFAH developed the [Framework for Creating Age-Friendly Public Health Systems](#) (AFPHS) that outlines five roles for public health engagement in healthy aging, the "5Cs Framework." Since that framework was developed in 2017, TFAH successfully completed an AFPHS pilot in Florida and has worked with many other state and local health departments to expand their roles in healthy aging.

One of the most important lessons learned throughout these activities is the significance of having a public health leader to champion the expansion of public health department activities to meet the health and social needs of older adults. Thus, TFAH has determined that a new component should be added that reflects the importance of leadership. The new "C" is

Creating and leading policy, systems, and environmental changes to improve older adult health and well-being.

The remaining 5Cs have also been updated to reflect a shift in practice. We are excited to unveil our **new 6Cs Framework!** Please contact the AFPHS team at afphs@tfah.org to learn how you can partners with us to expand this work.

AFPHS Training Feedback Survey

As the AFPHS team continues to develop timely and relevant trainings, we want to make sure we incorporate your feedback on our 2021 trainings. Please take a moment to fill out [this brief survey](#) on our past trainings. Thank you for your time and feedback.

THE 6 Cs FOR SUPPORTING HEALTHY AGING



Creating and leading policy, systems, and environmental changes



Collecting, analyzing, and translating relevant data



Connecting and convening multi-sector stakeholders



Communicating important public health information



Coordinating existing supports and services



Complementing existing health promoting programs



Events and Opportunities:

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems (AFPHS) Monthly Trainings

The social determinants of health (SDOH) are factors beyond traditional healthcare that significantly impact health including where you are born, live, work, play, go to school, and age. Data show that these factors impact a wide range of quality-of-life outcomes and health risks. This is true throughout the life course, including for older people. Factors such as adequate access to appropriate housing, nutritious food, and affordable transportation can significantly improve or detract from health.

For the remainder of 2022, the AFPHS training series will focus on the SDOH. To kick off these trainings, TFAH is pleased to welcome Dr. Aaron Guest, co-author of *Healthy Aging Through the Social Determinants of Health*, recently published by the American Public Health Association. Dr. Guest will provide an overview of the societal and economic factors that influence health and discuss how public health departments can expand their roles within the social determinants to support older adult health and well-being. This kick off session will be held on **Thursday, March 17 at 3 pm ET**. Register [here](#).

You can also view a recording of our February training on [Healthy People 2030 & Older Adults](#) and February's [blog post](#) What's Public Health Got to do With....Healthy Living & Aging.

Centering Racial Equity in Social Needs Interventions – *Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 1:00 pm ET*. This HealthBegins' webinar will highlight how pioneering institutions across the country are already answering the call to intentionally center racial equity in social needs interventions. The panelists for this session work in a variety of settings from health systems to community-based organizations and they will discuss the many entry points into the work of addressing equity while moving upstream. Register [here](#).

Pandemic Preparedness: Now is the Time – *Wednesday, February 23, 2022, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET*. To better prepare for future emergencies similar to COVID-19, stronger intergovernmental coordination, greater sustainable funding, and a robust public health data infrastructure are critical to ensuring we know where the nation is and where it needs to be during a crisis. The Bipartisan Policy Center is hosting a discussion with public health and health care experts on these issues. Register [here](#).

Public Health Advocacy, Demystified – *Thursday, February 24, 2022, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm ET*. Hosted by the Region V Public Health Training Center, this session will help public health professionals learn how to communicate effectively to advance policy and advocacy goals. This webinar is the first in a two-part series. Participants are strongly encouraged to attend both sessions. Register [here](#).

Strengthening Service Delivery Through Trauma-Informed Care – *Thursday, February 24, 2022, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm ET*. A workforce that is trained on trauma-informed care can help diminish the potential for trauma triggers and improve both quality of care and quality of life for older adults. The ADvancing States National Information & Referral Support Center will host program leaders from Texas Health and Human Services who will describe a three-part training series on person-centered, trauma-informed care for Texas' aging service providers. While this training, informed by the needs and experiences of Holocaust survivors, was developed for service providers, the care techniques and methods are best practices that improve the quality of care of all older adults. Register [here](#).

Building a Continuum of Care for People with Serious Illness through Patient Engagement – *Friday, February 25, 2022, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm ET*. The National Academy for State Health Policy is holding a webinar to discuss initiatives in the state of Washington that support patient engagement and review new tools from the National Committee for Quality Assurance. People who are more engaged in their care are shown to have better outcomes, use fewer resources, and report more satisfaction with the care they receive. These new tools can help states track and measure what matters most to people

with serious illness. Register [here](#).

Addressing Rural Health Needs: COVID-19, Equity and Access to Care – Monday, February 28, 2022, 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm ET Rural communities have seen an increased risk of COVID-19 infection, lower vaccination rates, and additional health care access challenges during the pandemic. Factors such as travel distance, broadband, and provider shortages contribute to lower access to care. The National Institute for Health Care Management Foundation will bring together leaders in the field of rural health who are working to improve the health and well-being of these communities in an upcoming webinar. Speakers will discuss 1) federal health policy focused on improving access, quality, and financing for rural health care and their role in the response to COVID-19; and 2) the pandemic's impact on health care services and steps to ensure digital health equity. Register [here](#).

Social Bonds as a Pooled Financing Mechanism to Address Social Drivers of Health Equity – March 2, 2022, 12:00 pm ET. This webinar will introduce a new Systems for Action study that is investigating whether a novel type of social bond can pool resources across multiple competing health plans and create stable, long-term financing for interventions that address social determinants of health. The research team for this study is led by the University of Minnesota in partnership with the Minnesota Hospital Association, Minnesota Association of Health Plans, Minnesota Department of Human Services, Minnesota Department of Health, and other community partners. Register [here](#).
engAGED Office Hours: Nutrition and Social Engagement – Thursday, March 10, 2022 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm ET. The March Office Hours session for engAGED: The National Resource Center for Engaging Older Adults will focus on the connection between nutrition and social engagement. LifeStream Services will highlight how its Curbside Nutrition program is addressing social isolation. Attendance will be capped at 30 participants. RSVP to [Meredith Hanley](#).

Grains Ounce Equivalents Tools for CACFP Operators – Monday, March 14, 2022, 2:00 pm – 2:30 pm ET. In honor of Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) Week, the United States Department of Agriculture's Team Nutrition initiative will present a special CACFP Halftime: Thirty on Thursdays webinar focused on different tools for implementing grains ounce equivalents. CACFP operators can use these tools to plan meals at their sites and answer frequently asked questions about the topic. The session will be conducted in English and immediately followed by a session in Spanish. Register [here](#).

Request for Proposals – The Johns Hopkins School of Nursing invites qualified organizations to respond to a request for proposals (RFP) to identify a national lead organization responsible for administering and scaling the Community Aging in Place—Advancing Better Living for Elders (CAPABLE) program. CAPABLE is a time-limited, participant-directed, home-based program with demonstrated results that increase mobility and functionality of older adults in their home environment. CAPABLE achieves this through goal setting and action planning directed by the older adult working with an inter-professional team comprised of an occupational therapist (OT), registered nurse (RN), and handy worker. Proposals must be received at CAPABLEinfo@jhu.edu no later than 5:00 pm EDT on **Wednesday, March 16**.

Take Action to Create Socially Connected Communities

The Local Leaders for Socially Connected Communities network is working to create more socially connected and equitable communities. During learning network calls, local government and community leaders explore concepts, ideas, and community-level strategies that reduce social isolation and strengthen social ties, especially for those who are most marginalized. [Healthy Places by Design](#) hosts monthly Zoom meetings which alternate between topic-based conversations and open space for peer networking. These calls take place on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 3:30 pm EST. All participants are encouraged to review the report, [Socially Connected Communities: Solutions for Social Isolation](#), prior to joining these calls. If you are interested in learning more about joining these sessions, please contact Gabriella Peterson at gabriellap@healthyplacesbydesign.org for more information.

Resources:

A Call for New Ideas to Address Vaccine Hesitancy

Thousands of deaths each day are related to people choosing not to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. [**A new Milbank Memorial Fund blog**](#) written by Sarah Reber of the University of California, Los Angeles Luskin School of Affairs and Cyrus Kosar of Brown University School of Public Health explore why vaccine hesitancy for COVID-19 and the flu persists. The blog post also presents reasons why we need to invest in research on strategies to improve vaccination rates. The authors note that “the absence of a strong research base on interventions to address vaccine hesitancy, state and local policymakers can chip away at the undervaccination problem by expanding efforts to make the vaccine easy to access in familiar locations and from trusted providers, and make sure that people understand the vaccine is free and safe.”

Caregiving

Supporting Black Caregivers

In honor of Black History Month and National Caregivers Day (February 18th), the National Center on Law and Elder Rights [**interviewed Dr. Donna Benton**](#) of the University of Southern California’s Leonard Davis School of Gerontology. Dr. Benton discusses her work supporting Black caregivers, the importance of caregiving in the Black community, and strategies for advocates who wish to better support their Black older adult clients. She also highlights the need for legal assistance in advance planning and addressing issues involving housing scams in the Black community. Dr. Benton mentioned the following resources as sources of information to help advocates to better understand the needs of Black older adults:

- University of Southern California: [**Family Caregiver Support Center**](#)
- National Caucus and Center on Black Aging: [**Black and Aging in America 2021**](#)
- National Center on Elder Abuse: [**Mistreatment of African American Elders**](#)
- [**NCALL Increasing Access to Healing Services and Just Outcomes for Older African American Crime Survivors Toolkit**](#)
- NCLER Webinar: [**Defending Older Adults from Home Equity Theft, “We Buy Houses” and Foreclosure Rescue Scams**](#)
- NCLER Webinar: [**Drafting Advance Planning Documents to Reduce the Risk of Abuse or Exploitation**](#)

Survey Results on Healthcare Navigation and Decision Making

FAIR Health conducted a nationwide [**study using two surveys to gather critical insights into the needs of older adults and their caregivers/care partners concerning healthcare navigation and decision making.**](#) The [**Healthcare Navigation and Decision Making: Perspectives of Adults Aged 65 and Older and Family Caregivers**](#) report includes several valuable insights including: 1) one in four older adults (aged 65 and older) never know the costs of healthcare services before getting a bill; 2) a significant proportion of older adults consider healthcare costs to be an important factor when making healthcare decisions; 3) more than a third have difficulty getting such cost information; and 4) while a significant proportion of family caregivers/care partners consider costs to be an important factor in making decisions about the person for whom they provide care (their care receiver), most do not discuss costs with healthcare providers.

Poll Results Highlight Need to Support Direct Care Workers

The John A. Hartford Foundation conducted [**a study focused on gathering opinions about direct care workers**](#) (home health aides, personal care attendants, etc.) amid the nation’s current health care workforce upheaval. One of the main findings from this study is the need to support direct care workers now. Some of the additional findings include: approximately half of the respondents indicating they do not think they will need support from a direct care worker as they age, but 66% will; roughly 72% of Americans overestimate how much direct care workers are paid; and a large majority, 94%, of people believe government oversight of nursing homes and home care agencies is important to help direct care workers protect older adults.

Additional Resources

The founder of the Bipartisan Policy Center's Terwilliger Center for Housing Policy Ron Terwilliger, recently shared in an [op-ed for *HousingWire*](#) how the U.S. can make housing more affordable. He recommends significantly boosting federal support for the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, enacting the Neighborhood Homes Investment Act that would encourage the construction and rehabilitation of housing stock in distressed communities, and making a national commitment to reform our land use and zoning practices that too often act as barriers to the development of affordable housing.

Improving Obesity Treatments for Older Adults

Medicare provides limited coverage for bariatric surgery, Intensive Behavioral Therapy (IBT) for weight loss, and the Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program (MDPP) . In addition, Medicare does not cover the full continuum of care for obesity, including anti-obesity medications and all evidence-based behavioral interventions. The Bipartisan Policy Center has released [a report that focuses on these coverage gaps and provides suggestions](#) for policymakers and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to address the issue.

AARP Walk Audit Tool Kit

A new resource developed by AARP can help local leaders, advocates, community organizations, and residents [assess the walkability and safety of their communities](#). The tool kit includes step-by-step instructions and checklists for examining intersections, sidewalks, driver behavior, and public safety. A walk audit requires an individual or a team to observe and evaluate the walkability of a location. They document how and if pedestrians can safely travel along a street, navigate an intersection, and get to different destinations.

Case Studies of Healthy Communities

The Build Healthy Places Network features [several case studies from across the country](#) that showcase innovative cross-sector partnerships addressing the social determinants and health inequities. These success stories illuminate strategies that can be adapted and implemented in other communities.

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