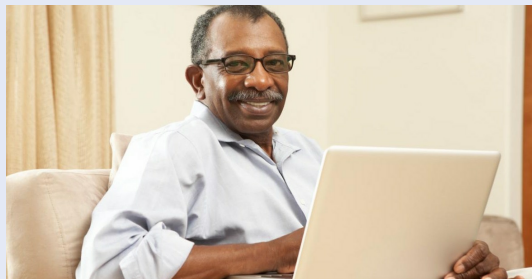


March 9, 2022

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Learning and Action Network News



News:

The Need for Age-Friendly Public Health Systems

A new article written by Trust for America's Health CEO Dr. J. Nadine Gracia and the president of The John A. Hartford Foundation Dr. Terry Fulmer published in the 14th edition of AARP The Journal offers the vision for an age-friendly ecosystem. To best serve older adults, this ecosystem should address the social determinants of health, and include health care systems, a prevention-focused public health system, and community-based organizations that serve older adults. The full article can be viewed [here](#).

New Toolkit Offers Strategies to Include Health Equity in Assessments

The Equitable Healthy Aging in Public Health Toolkit Report aims to increase the capacity of public health departments to enhance equitable health and well-being of older adults and promote healthy aging across the life course in community health improvement practice. The toolkit, sponsored by AARP and developed by the University of South Florida College of Public Health and School of Aging Studies, in consultation with the Trust for America's Health and the National Association of City and County Health Officials can be accessed [here](#).

Thank You in Advance!

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.

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 March training, 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, who 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 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 March's [blog post](#) *What's Public Health Got to do With....Healthy Aging and Social Determinants of Health*.

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](#).

Money Mule Scams: Tips for Prevention, Identification, and Trauma-Informed Assistance – *Thursday, March 10, 2022, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm ET*. This webinar will discuss "Money mules," individuals who receive and move money that came from victims of fraud. The Department of Justice and the National Center on Law and Elder Rights will provide an overview of money scams, explain how to recognize and avoid them, and share tips for elder justice advocates to assist older adults who are impacted by these scams using a trauma-informed approach. Register [here](#).

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](#).

State and Local Partnerships for Housing Stability – *Tuesday, March 15, 2022, 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm ET*. States and communities have created cross-sector partnerships that improve housing stability by connecting people to housing and making supportive services more accessible. During this webinar, presenters will discuss success stories and collaborations between housing, home and community-based services, and health services. [Click here](#) to register.

Partners in Social Engagement: Collaborating with Faith Communities – *Thursday, March 17, 2022, 1:00 pm ET*. USAgainstAlzheimer's will discuss the relationship between faith and social isolation and provide examples of how these communities support social engagement in this upcoming webinar. AgeOptions and Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota will also share their experiences partnering with faith-based groups. [Click here](#) to register.

Creating a World for All Ages: Looking Back and Moving Forward – *Wednesday, March 23, 2022, 8:00am – 9:00am ET*. Drawing from the first UN Global report on ageism, this interactive webinar hosted by the International Federation on Aging on ageism will include key information on how it affects our societies, including how the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted and exacerbated the insidiousness of ageism and how the experience of ageism has impacted the overall well-being as well as health outcomes of older adults. Attendees will also be able to share the work they have been doing to tackle ageism in their communities. Register [here](#).

Assessing Needs: Toolkit for Dementia, Cognitive Health and Caregiving – *Tuesday, March 29, 2022, 1:30 pm - 2:00 pm*. The Alzheimer's Association and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials are hosting a webinar for their new toolkit [Needs Assessment Toolkit for Dementia, Cognitive Health, and Caregiving](#). This toolkit contains resources to help state, local, and territorial public health and aging officials conduct comprehensive needs assessments to identify unmet needs of older adults, scale up existing community strengths, and promote healthy aging. Register [here](#).

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.

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**.

Request for Applications: Building Workforce Capacity of Rural and Frontier Local Health Departments to Respond to COVID-19

NACCHO has announced a funding opportunity for local health departments (LHDs) through a [Request for Application \(RFA\)](#) process. With support from the CDC, NACCHO will offer funding to approximately 35 rural and/or frontier health departments to help build their workforce capacity to respond to COVID-19 for Year 2 of this project. Applicants may apply for funding awards of \$35,000 to support COVID-19 response and recovery activities related to: administrative preparedness, emergency preparedness and response, communications, workforce mental health and well-being, health equity, and emerging issues. The application deadline is Wednesday, March 16, at 11:59pm ET. Questions about the RFA and application process can be directed to the project team at CovidWorkforce@naccho.org.

Resources:

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

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 the development of the original Framework in 2017, TFAH has learned the value and 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. The new component of the AFPHS Framework reflects the importance of this 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 share the [new 6Cs Framework!](#)

COVID-19

White House Addresses the Needs of People with Disabilities and Older Adults

In response to COVID-19, the White House has released a [fact sheet](#) outlining how the Biden-Harris Administration has collaborated with the disability community. They have also taken action to address the needs of individuals with disabilities while considering the impacts of the pandemic. The Administration has communicated eight key steps they will take to further ensure that individuals with disabilities, regardless of where they live or the level of community transmission of the virus, have equitable access to COVID-19 testing, masks, and other critical mitigation strategies.

Workforce

The Impact of Health Care Worker Shortages

Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) Health Project Director Marilyn Werber Serafini and Senior Media Relations Manager Jennifer Ruff discuss the health care worker shortage and its impact on communities and health care facilities in a [recent BPC blog post](#). While the unemployment rate is down overall, health care and social services have experienced one of the largest drops in employment during the pandemic. States are exploring various strategies to address this shortage. New York plans to offer higher wages, retention payments, and expanded access to training and education. In Minnesota, January was declared “Health Care Month” to draw attention to open health care positions across the state. The National Guard has been called in to other states – Idaho, Utah, and Wisconsin – to meet staffing shortages. Hospitals are also recruiting nurses from the Philippines, Thailand, Kenya, Ghana, and Nigeria.

Workforce Development for the Next Era of Human Services

[A recent WellSky & Guidehouse webinar](#) highlighted federal and state leaders' visions for the future of workforce management, with a focus on person-centered care. The session featured a panel of experts that answered questions around funding for long-term workforce development and developments in Washington, DC. Panelists for this webcast included former US Assistant Secretary for Aging Lance Robertson (now Director at Guidehouse), as well as Teja Stokes, Deputy Executive Director at the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services, Abby Cox, Director of the Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services, and Jayson Wright, Senior Consultant at Guidehouse.

Additional Resources

Impact of Systemic Inequities on Elder Abuse

An ongoing focus on equity-related initiatives that address disparities revealed by the COVID-19 pandemic must recognize the impact on older adults. A recent blogpost authored by Sahar Takshi highlights that the [impact of discrimination increases as one ages](#). Takshi notes that “older adults may experience intersectional inequities including by age, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, immigration status, language proficiency, and disability.” Older adults experiencing abuse continue to face barriers in accessing services such as legal assistance, health care, long-term care, and financial planning that can mitigate the impact of abuse. Takshi recommends that adult protective services professionals focus on recognizing cultural differences and mitigating implicit biases and power dynamics to better serve older adults.

Housing Issues for Older Adults after Natural Disasters

[A recent webinar from the National Housing Law Project](#) highlighted the common housing issues faced by homeowners and renters following a natural disaster. A specific focus in this session was placed on how advocates and providers working with older adults can assist them before these disasters occur and the [post-disaster resources](#) available to older adults and advocates to help address housing recovery needs.

Viability of Virtual Service Delivery for the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Model

Similar to other services and programs for older adults, the Program of All-Inclusive Care

for the Elderly (PACE) program had to **consider how they were doing to deliver services during the pandemic**. A high percentage of PACE participants rely on human interactions and require a high level of attention and care. Results from a survey administered in 2021 indicate that while 97% of PACE programs increased their use of virtual services, communication through tablets and computers was only marginally useful because it was only applicable to 10% of PACE participants.

Recognizing the Need for Temporary Boosts to Nutrition Program Benefits

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act allows for emergency SNAP allotments while both federal and state public health emergency orders are in effect. This allowed the U.S. Department of Agriculture the authority to give states flexibility to issue additional Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) dollars, bringing household benefits up to the maximum amount for their household size. Over two dozen older adults were interviewed about SNAP and most shared that the increased benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic improved their food-purchasing power, nutrition, health, and well-being. In a new report, **The Case for Making SNAP Benefits Adequate: Reflections from Interviews with Older Adults**, released by the Food Research & Action Center and commissioned by AARP Foundation, interviewees shared how the boosts to SNAP benefits improved their lives, from food purchases to health outcomes.

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