

July 14, 2021

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Learning and Action Network News



News:

What's Public Health Got to Do With...Healthy Aging? TFAH's new Age-Friendly Public Health Systems (AFPHS) monthly blog series is designed to stir up conversation, generate interest, and challenge healthy aging stakeholders to engage more deeply in age-friendly public health issues. Some months the blog topics will link to the AFPHS training session topics (like this month), while other months we will seek input from you, our network of readers, on the blog focus. We also hope to share thoughts from our team and our partners. TFAH's AFPHS team looks forward to engaging with you and invites you to join our journey to make healthy aging a core public health function.

Read the first blog post [What's Public Health Got To Do With... Family Caregiving?](#) by our own Megan Wolfe.

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.

The Legacy Interviews – *Wednesdays, June 23 – September 8, 2021, 1:00 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](#).

COVID-19: Disaster Preparedness and Vulnerable Populations – *Thursday, July 15, 2021, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm ET*. Part 3 of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine’s disaster preparedness workshop series will focus on 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 focused on home health workers providing services to individuals living with disabilities and older adults. This third webinar in the series 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](#).

Using Data to Improve Access to Behavioral Health Care – *Thursday, July 15, 2021, 3:00 pm ET*. This webinar is the last in a series from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services and will explore how state agencies can use data to improve access to and quality of behavioral health follow-up care. Specific examples from state agencies in Pennsylvania and Tennessee will address challenges and lessons learned during their implementation processes. 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](#).

Affordable and Accessible Housing for All Ages – *Tuesday, July 20, 2021 11:00 am ET*. Hosted by the AARP International Team, this session features the Clarion Housing Group in the UK. They will highlight how their housing structure provides social housing and how they have developed affordable housing that is designed to enable people to live independently in those homes for as long as possible. Register [here](#).

What is the Global Response to Loneliness after COVID-19? – *Tuesday, July 20, 2021 7:30 am – 9:00 am ET*. This webinar will highlight lessons learned from countries around the world and their experience in tackling loneliness during a pandemic. The event is organized by the Campaign to End Loneliness with support from the Global Initiative on Loneliness and Connection. Register [here](#).

Public Sector Briefing: Person-Driven Outcomes – *July 21, 2021 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm ET*. Led by the (National Committee for Quality Assurance) NCQA, this webinar will focus on person-driven outcomes measures and how NCQA is looking to build person-driven outcomes into its programs, and how states can consider using these measures for driving quality and accountability. Register [here](#).

engAGED Virtual Aging Network Social Engagement Summit – *Thursday, July 22, 2021, 12:45 pm – 2:15 pm ET*. 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 highlighted. Register [here](#).

Supporting Southeast Asian American Caregivers – *Thursday, July 22, 2021, 2:00 pm ET*. This Diverse Elders Coalition webinar will help providers deepen their understanding of the unique experiences and of Southeast American caregivers and improve their capacity to address these caregivers’ needs. Register [here](#).

Understanding Social Isolation and its Impact on Older Adults and Those Living with Disabilities - *Wednesday, July 28, 2021, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm ET*. Hosted by the National Council on Aging, this webinar will explore loneliness and social isolation and their impacts on older adults. Presenters will also address risk factors that contribute to social isolation and loneliness, the costs of social isolation, and share resources, innovations, and tips. Register [here](#).

2021 Healthy Aging Symposium – *September 8 & 9, 2021*. Co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion and Trust for America’s Health, this national symposium will focus on sharing the latest research and successful approaches to healthy aging; connecting insights and ideas across sectors; addressing barriers and reducing health disparities among older

Americans; and building on lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic. Register [here](#).

Resources:

COVID-19

Describing the Impact of COVID-19

The Milken Institute Center for the Future of Aging has recently released a report that includes interviews with leaders from business, health, academia, policy, and philanthropy on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The interviews in the [COVID-19 and the Future of Aging report](#) are organized into the following groups: Societal Response, Health and Wellness, Financial Security and Retirement, Advances in Bioscience, Housing and Communities, Work and Careers, and Philanthropy.

Additional Resources

Improving Balance through an App

Colorado residents age 60 and older across the state have gained access to Nymbbl, a [smartphone app that can help improve balance through exercises and activities](#). The local Area Agency on Aging was able to make this app free for 10,000 residents. App users can improve their balance virtually without having to attend classes or programs in person.

Digital Navigators Supporting Older Adults

Some older adults experience challenges using technology. As more health providers are encouraging virtual appointments, older adults need additional support. [Digital navigators can help older adults to understand telehealth systems](#) and use them effectively. They call older patients one week before their telehealth appointments to see if they have questions about navigating their upcoming sessions.

Telehealth Keeping Older Adults out of Long-Term Care

[A pilot study has demonstrated the effectiveness of internet- or phone-based telehealth](#) among 26 patients. Run by the West Virginia Bureau for Medical Services, this study is part of a larger program designed to help people transition from long-term or skilled nursing care to their homes. Customized medical devices and tablet computers, or telephone-based services where internet was not available, were provided to people with traumatic brain injuries and older adults that wished to transition from long-term care facilities.

Resource Library for Equity among Older Adults

Developed by the New York Academy of Medicine, with support from the Administration for Community Living, the [Older Adults Equity Collaborative Resource Library](#) is a digital library that collects resources for diverse populations of older adults, their caregivers, and aging service providers. Technical assistance and training to the aging services network to better serve a diverse population of older adults is also provided.

Early Identification of Alzheimer's Disease

International researchers, led by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, have developed a blood-based test that could help [detect Alzheimer's disease early](#). This blood test has a scoring system that was created to differentiate Alzheimer's patients from healthy individuals with nearly 96% accuracy.



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