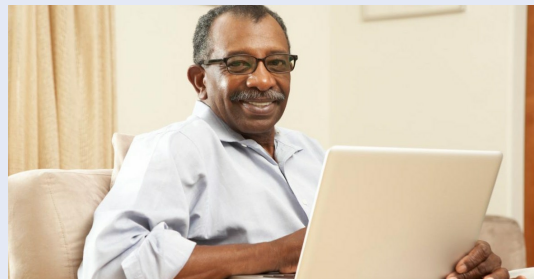


November 22, 2021

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Learning and Action Network News



News:

Public Health Forward: Modernizing the U.S. Public Health System

The nation's ability to weather and recover from public health threats is largely dependent on a strong public health infrastructure, with the expertise, workforce, and funding necessary to protect the health of all Americans. The Bipartisan Policy center, in partnership with TFAH and other stakeholder organizations, will soon release a report establishing a 5-year vision for governmental public health in the U.S., and an actionable framework for state and local elected and public health officials to enhance public health infrastructure. To learn about the framework and actions that public health leaders can take, register for an informational webinar, [here](#). The webinar will take place on **Thursday, December 2, 2021 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm ET**.

Events and Opportunities:

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems (AFPHS) Monthly Trainings

An Age-Friendly Ecosystem encompasses the lived environment, social determinants of health, the healthcare system, and a prevention and equity-focused public health system. These system components often operate in silos, despite working toward common goals and addressing common challenges.

The December AFPHS training will bring together speakers from several organizations to define the Age-Friendly Ecosystem and discuss how each component can align with public health efforts to improve the health and well-being of older adults.

This session will occur on **Thursday, December 16, 2021, at 3:00 pm ET**. Register [here](#).

You can also view a recording of our November training [A Call to Action for Healthy Aging](#) and our latest [blog post](#) What's Public Health Got to do With....Healthy Aging.

Funding Opportunity – Request for Applications: Building Local Operational Capacity for COVID-19, Healthcare-Associated Infections, and Antimicrobial Resistance. The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is providing funding to local health departments (LHDs) to prevent and respond to COVID-19 and other healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) and antimicrobial resistant (AR) threats. NACCHO anticipates LHDs that take part in this project will strengthen relationships with facilities and partners and enhance their capacity and confidence in assessing and supporting IPC practices in high-risk facilities. LHDs that elect to complete

the required activities may receive up to \$70,000; LHDs that elect to conduct the required and supplemental activities may receive an additional \$30,000 for a total of up to \$100,000. The deadline for submitting requests for application is **Wednesday, November 24th**. More information on this opportunity can be found [here](#).

Funding Opportunity – Partnerships for Population Health Learning Opportunity. With support from and in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials will assist two state/territorial health agencies in developing or expanding a cross-sector collaboration related to housing or transportation. The participating health agencies will receive technical assistance and financial support of up to \$10,000 to support health agency staff time, training needs, facilitator fees, or other needs related to cross-sector partnership building. The deadline for submitting applications is **Monday, November 29th**. More information on this opportunity can be found [here](#).

Advancing Equity for Older Adults, Part 2: Putting Strategies into Practice – *Wednesday, December 1, 2021, 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm ET* This National Center on Law and Elder Rights webinar will explore ways to apply principles and strategies to effectively advance equity in legal and aging services. Presenters from legal assistance and elder rights programs will describe the steps they have taken to center equity, with a focus on racial equity, as well as lessons learned and promising practices for staffing, process, and evaluation. Attendees will receive actionable steps they can take and will learn about tools that advocates can incorporate in their own work to advance equity for older adults and serve those with the greatest social and economic need. Register [here](#).

Social Isolation and Loneliness at the End of Life in the Era of COVID-19 – *Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 12:00-1:00 pm ET*. The Forum on Aging, Disability, and Independence at the National Academy of Medicine will join the Roundtable on Quality Care for People with Serious Illness to host a collaborative webinar to examine social isolation and loneliness. Presenters will explore these issues in the context of the health care system, palliative care and disparities among certain populations with a view towards improving the quality of life for people near the end of life. For information and to register, click [here](#).

Special and Vulnerable Populations COVID-19 Forum – *Friday, January 28, 2022, 2:00 pm ET*. The National Center for Equitable Care for Elders presents this webinar series that will address how COVID-19 has impacted health centers across the country and the special populations they serve. Previous sessions were held on September 2 and November 19, and the final date for this four-part series is March 25, 2022. Register [here](#).

Conference on Caregiving Research – *March 3 -4, 2022*. The Center for Research, Training, and Dissemination of Family Support for People with Disabilities Across the Life Course is hosting the Second Biennial Conference on Caregiving Research in Pittsburgh, PA. The theme for the conference is Building Bridges: Advancing Family Caregiving Research Across the Lifespan. National leaders in caregiving research, policy, and practice across the lifespan will come together to discuss the community, clinical and policy needs of family caregivers. More information is available [here](#).

Resources:

COVID-19

Guidance on Using American Rescue Plan Act Funds

The Government Finance Officers Association has prepared guidance on using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for state and local jurisdictions. [This guide](#) details information about the funds, including eligible uses, restrictions on use, important deadlines, and considerations on partnering with other ARPA fund grantees in the community.

Impact of Ageism on Older Adults during the Pandemic

In an October webinar on ageism sponsored by The John A. Hartford Foundation and

Kaiser Health News, Jess Maurer, Executive Director of the Maine Council on Aging commented that “COVID hit us over the head with a two-by-four, (showing that) you can’t keep doing the same thing over and over again and expect different results for seniors.” She then cited the importance of addressing the root cause of these issues, ageism.

Strategies for addressing ageism, particularly in health care settings, include 1) distinguishing older age from disease; 2) identifying ageist beliefs and languages; 3) tackling ageism at the grassroots level; 4) changing education for health professionals; 5) altering professional requirements; 5) bringing in geriatric expertise; and 6) building age-friendly health systems.

Impact of Isolation due to COVID-19

Results from a Humana survey of 1,003 adults age 64 and older note that the pandemic had a disproportionate impact on the physical and mental health of older adults. Fifty-one percent of respondents reported spending more time alone since the pandemic started and 43% reported spending less time on things that bring them joy. Only 3% of older adults obtained virtual mental health care during the pandemic. These results were similar to results from an **Anthem study** which found that mental healthcare claims dropped during the pandemic.

Nursing Facility Immunization Programs

Despite recent news about breakthrough infections in nursing facilities, those institutions that began taking steps to deliver COVID-19 vaccines in December 2020 experienced significant decreases in the incidence of COVID-19 cases from December 2020 to June 2021. The number of deaths dropped from nearly 1 out of every 50 residents in January 2021 to fewer than 1 in 3,000 in July. In addition to this success, states with higher COVID-19 vaccination rates also had higher influenza and pneumococcal immunization rates. Nursing facilities now have an opportunity to **consider lessons learned and evaluate the structure of their immunization programs**, particularly given the availability of boosters for older adults in these facilities.

Holiday Facts to keep Older Adults Safe from COVID-19

Developed by the Resilient American Communities (RAC) and BellAge, two new fact sheets have been released that contain strategies for keeping older adults safe from COVID-19. These **Winter Holiday Fact Sheets** are designed to make people aware of the threat that the pandemic presents to older adults and actions that should be taken to keep them safe.

Additional Resources

Improving Health Equity at the State-Level

The National Governors Association, Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy, and the National Association of State Health Policy have recently released two reports that highlight best and promising practices for improving health equity in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The **Championing Health Equity: Experiences from State COVID-19 Health Equity Task Forces** report shares how 10 states have embedded equity into their COVID-19 response efforts. The **Achieving Progress Toward Health Equity Using Race and Ethnicity Data: State Strategies and Lessons Learned** report provides examples of how states are advancing equity by collecting, reporting, and using race and ethnicity data.

Home and Community-Based Services Data

A new AARP report provides the latest data and information on home and community-based services (HCBS). The report includes what services are considered HCBS, identifies users and providers of these services, how they are financed, and delivery models. Policy solutions that states could incorporate to improve and expand access to these services are also provided.

Shifts in Nutritional Needs

Registered dietitian Jennifer Bruning highlights **five changes that lead to nutritional shifts with age**: 1) needing less iron; 2) being more prone to dehydration; 3) needing fewer calories due to decreased appetite; 4) having a decreased appetite due metabolism, certain medications, health issues and taste changes; and 5) having a decreased ability to absorb certain nutrients. Her recommendations to address these shifts include talking with a doctor or nutritionist, drinking fluids throughout the day, making strategic choices about

what one eats, eating small snacks throughout the day and eating certain foods to address certain nutritional needs.

Most Older Adults Want to Age-in-Place

AARP has released a [survey](#) that confirms what most people know: older adults want to stay at home. According to the survey, the percentage of people choosing to age-in-place in the community has remained steady at 77% over a decade. This is crucial to be able to address housing needs as people age and ensure the availability of affordable and accessible housing for everyone.

Recommendations to Support Kin and Grandparent Caregivers

[The Advisory Council to Support Grandparents Raising Grandchildren recently submitted a report to Congress with 22 recommendations](#) to support kin and grandparent caregivers. These recommendations focus on the following five priority areas: Awareness of/Outreach to Kin and Grandparent Caregivers; Kin and Grandparent Caregiver Engagement; Services and Supports for Kinship Families and Grandfamilies; Financial and Workplace Security for Kin and Grandparent Caregivers; and Research, Data, and Evidence-Supported Practices. Federally funded efforts to support kinship and grandfamilies are also highlighted in the report.

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