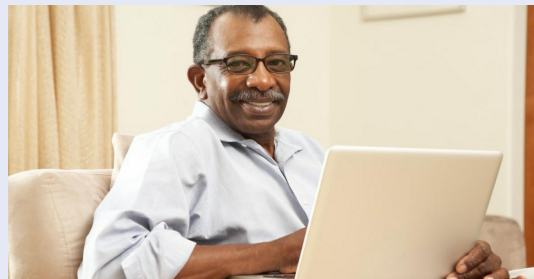


March 24, 2022

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Learning and Action Network News



News:

TFAH's Age-Friendly Public Health Systems (AFPHS) Recognition Program is now aligned with the new AFPHS 6Cs Framework! This new version will honor various levels of engagement by public health professionals in advancing healthy aging and provide greater flexibility to achieve recognition. The new program offers opportunities for recognition at three levels:

AFPHS Champion (individual) creates leadership and supports capacity building; requires attendance at six AFPHS trainings (current or recorded).

AFPHS Recognition (departmental) honors commitment; requires submission of an action plan listing at least one activity for each of the 6Cs to which the department makes a commitment.

AFPHS Advanced (departmental) recognizes policy, systems, and environmental changes; requires completing the activities in the action plan within 2 years of initial recognition.

The AFPHS Recognition Program web resources now include the Action Plan template and a [list of activities aligned with the 6Cs](#). Departments can select among this list of activities or identify other actions that meet the unique needs of their communities.

For more information and guidance, visit the [new AFPHS Recognition Program page](#) or email afphs@tfah.org with questions about the new program. TFAH will still offer one-on-one technical assistance to further build the capacity of state and local health departments to become age-friendly.

Events and Opportunities:

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems (AFPHS) Monthly Trainings

The April AFPHS training will focus on the public health role in supporting older adults living with HIV and in the context of the social determinants of health. The speaker for this training, Dorcas Baker with the MidAtlantic AIDS Education and Training Center at Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, will highlight the challenges experienced by older adults living with HIV and the roles of public health in meeting these challenges. This session will be held on **Thursday, April 21 at 3 pm ET**. Register [here](#).

You can also view a [recording of our March training on Healthy Aging and Social Determinants of Health](#) and March's [blog post](#) *What's Public Health Got to do With....Healthy Aging and Social Determinants of Health*.

An Updated Policy Roadmap: Caring for Individuals with Complex Needs
–Thursday, March 31, 2022, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm ET The Bipartisan Policy Center is hosting a virtual discussion on federal policy solutions to improve care for individuals with complex health needs. Providing quality care remains one of the most pressing issues facing our health care system. Register [here](#).

Diversity in Aging – Thursday, April 7, 2022, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm ET. Hosted by Concordia University, this panel discussion will focus on exploring the diversity among older adults and how becoming older is a multi-faceted experience. Some of the specific topics that will be discussed include indigenous cognitive health, sexual expression in long-term care settings, ageism and the stereotyping of older adults, and ableism in public policy. Register [here](#).

Communicating Through COVID-19 and Beyond: Impact and Insights from the Field of Public Health – Wednesday, April 13, 2022, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm ET. The Public Health Communications Collaborative (PHCC) will facilitate this webinar to share powerful insights for protecting public health through the current COVID-19 landscape and beyond. As we navigate through the evolving challenges of COVID-19, PHCC will continue to support public health communicators by providing pandemic resources and begin to expand its reach by offering tools and resources beyond COVID-19. The PHCC resource, *Impact and Insights from the Field of Public Health*, will offer stories and lessons learned from public health communicators across the U.S. that can be used to address current and future communication needs. Register [here](#).

The 411 on Dementia in Black Communities: An Interactive Expert Panel – Monday, April 18, 2022, 10:00 am – 11:30 am ET Hosted by the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, this interactive webinar provides an opportunity for attendees to ask questions about dementia and dementia care in Black communities. The panel of experts for this session include a geriatric nurse, a cultural expert, a creative arts therapist, a geriatric pharmacist, a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, and a gerontological scientist. Register [here](#).

Promising Practices Spotlight: Focused Care Coordination and Elder Advocates – Tuesday, April 26, 2022, 3:00 -- 4:00 pm ET. Speakers from Idaho and Maine will share successes, lessons learned, and outcomes from their 2018 Administration for Community Living state Adult Protective Services (APS) enhancement grant projects which focused on person-centered, collaborative, focused interventions, as well as enhanced data collection. Attendees will learn how goal attainment scaling, supported decision making, motivational interviewing, and other interventions may be utilized in APS practice in upcoming session hosted by the APS Technical Assistance Resource Center. 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.

Resources:

Getting Prepared for Pandemics

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has promoted many health organizations and agencies to consider how to prepare for future pandemics. Building on the Bipartisan Policy Center's June 2021 report, [**Positioning America's Public Health System for the Next Pandemic**](#), public health and health care experts came together to discuss intergovernmental coordination, greater sustainable funding, and a robust public health data infrastructure on [**a recent webinar**](#).

Two Pandemics in One Lifetime

In a recent [**Narrative Matters**](#) essay in the March 2022 issue of *Health Affairs*, Richard Sorian expresses his reaction to enduring two pandemics in his life. He comments on the previous challenges communicating about HIV/AIDS in media and within the government, and how the "response to COVID-19 in many ways has become more dangerously polarized than the response to HIV/AIDS."

Ageism

Innovative Strategies to Combat Ageism

As people continue to experience ageism in different sectors, several organizations have developed [**tools and resources to eliminate ageism**](#). [**Old School**](#), developed by the author of "This Chair Rocks: A Manifesto Against Ageism," Ashton Applewhite is a free clearinghouse with blogs, articles, videos, speakers and accessible tools for the public. [**Yo, Is this Ageist**](#) is a resource that allows people to submit questions that are answered by Applewhite. The [**Frameworks Institute**](#) has research reports, articles and a toolkit on aging that provide alternative language to revamp attitudes about aging and older adults. [**Changing the Narrative**](#), a Colorado based campaign to alter public perceptions about ageism in society, offers public speaking engagements, training, blogs, opinion pieces, letters to the editor and messages for social media and other platforms.

New Video Series Provides Well-Framed Language about Aging

Two new videos have been launched in the Frame of Mind video series by Reframing Aging - "[**Frame of Mind: The Why and How of Reframing Aging**](#)," and "[**Frame of Mind: Reframing Aging From 'Them' to 'Us'**](#)". Both of these videos highlight how changing the way we communicate can shift attitudes about aging.

Research Shows Focusing on Role rather than Age Decreases Ageist Attitudes

Maria Shriver, journalist and author, recently hosted a summit called [**Radically Reframing Aging**](#) that mirrored the messaging in the Reframing Aging - "[**Frame of Mind: The Why and How of Reframing Aging**](#)" video. The five-day event included talks and discussions led by leading experts and celebrities focused on "changing the way we age....and the way we talk about aging."

The Role Older Adults Play

Results from a recent study - "[**Reframing aging during COVID-19: Familial role-based framing of older adults linked to decreased ageism**](#)" - notes that describing older adults by the role that they play in others' lives can decrease ageist attitudes. Authors Dr. Reuben Ng and Nicole Indran studied whether age-based framing (e.g., senior citizen) is associated with more negative stereotyping in the media compared to familial role-based framing (e.g., grandparent). A more role-centered approach in framing older adults can lead to the contributions of older adults being acknowledged and valued by society.

Additional Resources

Aging and Comorbidities for People Living with HIV

Dr. Carl Dieffenbach, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Division of AIDS, noted in [**a recent presentation at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections**](#) that "the care of people living with HIV has not kept up with the reality of this aging population." In his presentation, Dr. Dieffenbach highlights the need for supporting people with multiple comorbidities as they age.

Addressing the Nursing Shortage

To discuss why nurses are leaving their positions and some of the possible solutions to

improve the pipeline and retention rates, the Bipartisan Policy Center held a [webinar with a panel of former nurses and workforce experts](#) to explore paths forward. This is the first of two events that will explore trends and challenges in the nursing workforce.

Pollution-Related Death More Deadly

United Nations special reporter on human rights and the environment, David Boyd, warns that "pollution on our planet today is pervasive, it's affecting everyone but it's affecting some people in a really grossly unfair and disproportionate way." [One in 6 deaths globally is caused by pollution-related diseases](#), making environmental contamination more deadly than the COVID-19 pandemic, AIDS, wars, other diseases. Boyd has also commented about the creation of pollution "sacrifice zones" across the world. These are areas where tens of millions of people are suffering strokes, cancers, respiratory problems and heart disease as a result of toxic contamination of the environment.

Behavioral Health and the Future of Telehealth

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced a series of new policies aimed at enabling access to behavioral health services via telehealth in November of 2021. The [utilization of behavioral health services via telehealth](#) has been on the rise due to the increased need for flexibility during the pandemic and the increase in social isolation, economic challenges, grief, and other challenges spurred by the pandemic. Some of the future considerations that states and federal officials have flagged are: 1) assessing appropriate modalities of care delivery; 2) ensuring equity in behavioral health access via telehealth; and 3) addressing behavioral health stigma while not fostering isolation.

Keeping Up with the Demand for Emergency Psychiatric Treatment

In [a new episode of the Health Affairs Pathways podcast "While We Wait"](#), Avni Kulkarni and Sania Ali discuss emergency departments and how our nation's safety net is struggling to keep up with the increasing demand for emergency psychiatric treatment. Clinicians from Children's National Hospital share how they decide which patients need inpatient admission and tools that can be used to treat mental health crises.

A National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers

[A recent LeadingAge Long-Term Services and Support Center report](#)

summarizes findings from research involving stakeholder organizations working with family caregivers in both private and public sectors. It includes insights into best practice models and action steps that can be included in the national strategy to meet the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, & Engage Family Caregivers Act of 2018 goals. The research for this report involved a series of individual interviews and group listening sessions from stakeholder groups such as the direct care workforce, county health care providers, employers, aging and disability organizations, faith-based groups, and respite care providers.

Issue Brief on Disability Models on Person-Centeredness in Home and Community-Based Services

In response to the lack of attention to the connection between societal perceptions of disability, as influenced by disability models, the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Home and Community-Based Services has released their first issue brief on the topic. [This new brief](#) explores the medical, social, and biopsychosocial models of disability, their relationship with evolving frameworks of person-centeredness, and implications for providers and others who deliver services and supports.

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