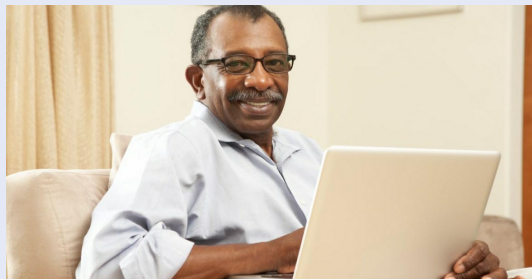


April 27, 2022

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Learning and Action Network News



News:

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems in the News!

In its monthly Public Health Review podcast, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) facilitated an interview with Elizabeth Head (Deputy Director, Injury Prevention Section, Georgia Department of Public Health) and Aline Stone (Georgia Alzheimer's and Related Dementias Coordinator, Division of Aging Services, Georgia Department of Human Services) who described their collaboration to improve the health of older adults in Georgia. They shared their [experience participating in a pilot project with ASTHO and Trust for America's Health \(TFAH\) to crosswalk their state health improvement and aging plans](#), resulting in the identification of significant areas for partnership between the two agencies. For more information, and if your health department is interested in a crosswalk of state plans, please contact the AFPHS team at afphs@tfah.org

In the [ASTHO Public Health Review Morning Edition newscast](#), Senior Policy Development Manager Megan Wolfe shares how TFAH is working to recognize departments of health through the newly revised [AFPHS Recognition Program](#). TFAH developed the AFPHS Recognition Program based on the 6Cs Framework for Creating Age-Friendly Public Health Systems and corresponding actions that, if achieved, will reflect a health department's commitment to healthy aging. The [new Program](#) offers opportunities for recognition at three levels: 1) an individual AFPHS Champion designation, 2) AFPHS Departmental Recognition, and 3) AFPHS Advanced Department Recognition.

Events and Opportunities:

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems (AFPHS) Monthly Trainings

Older adults and their families with access to technology, including broadband internet, relevant devices and skill-building opportunities, have been able to seek out a wider array of information, services, and social connections more quickly, and organizations were able to reach them more effectively during the pandemic. Older adults without such access have been disproportionately impacted and will continue to be unless digital equity efforts and funding opportunities consider all of us.

Technology is a social determinant of health and the May session of the AFPHS Training Series will feature the Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative (MHAC), a cross-sector

and statewide network of stakeholders promoting and supporting inclusive age- and dementia friendly communities. James Fuccione, Senior Director of MHAC, will discuss strategies such as advocacy, partnerships and elevating promising practices to ensure older adults are included in digital equity work. Some of MHAC's partners advancing local and regional digital equity solutions will also share their work and experiences. Overall, participants will learn how embracing technology as a social determinant of health helps to engage key stakeholders and policymakers.

This session will be held on **Thursday, May 19 at 3 pm ET**. Register [here](#). You can also view a recording of our April training on [HIV among Older Adults and Related Social Determinants of Health](#) and read April's [blog post](#) *What's Public Health Got to do With...HIV among Older Adults*.

Bridging the Digital Divide to Increase Social Engagement – *Wednesday, April 27, 2022, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm ET*. Learn how to connect older adults with affordable broadband to help them take part in virtual social engagement opportunities in this upcoming webinar from engAGED: The National Resources Center for Engaging Older Adults. Older Adults Technology Services from AARP will highlight how its Aging Connected campaign helps the aging network connect more consumers to affordable broadband and access social engagement opportunities. The Federal Communications Commission will then provide details on the Affordable Connectivity Program and resources for the consumers you serve. Attendees will also hear from the Eastern Oklahoma Development District Area Agency on Aging on how it helped consumers connect to broadband and how organizations can create similar strategies. Register [here](#).

Revolutionize 2022 Conference – *Thursday & Friday, April 28-29, 2022*. This conference will bring together innovators from government, public policy, for profit and non-profit organizations, healthcare, research, and education to reimagine and redirect the future of aging. Register [here](#).

Serving Adult Participants in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) – *Thursday, May 5, 2022, 2:00 pm – 2:30 pm ET* The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Team Nutrition initiative will present a CACFP Halftime: Thirty on Thursdays webinar focused on how the CACFP meal pattern provides flexibilities to allow program operators to plan meals that best meet the needs of their adult participants. Meal service options, dietary needs of this population, and meal modifications will also be discussed. The session will be conducted in Spanish from 3:00 pm to 3:30 pm ET. Register [here](#).

What We Can Do Now: Strategies for Better Brain Health – *Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm ET*. Join Grantmakers In Aging as they highlight a variety of innovative approaches designed to help communities and individuals improve our brain health and reduce disparities experienced by historically underserved groups through increased movement, healthy eating, relaxation, social connection, and sleep. Panelists include: Stephanie Monroe, UsAgainstAlzheimer's, Sarah Lenz Lock, AARP Global Council on Brain Health, and Lisa McGuire, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Healthy Aging Branch. This webinar is the first in a four-part series titled Innovation and Hope: Building Momentum to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias; A partnership between Grantmakers In Aging and the Helen Daniels Bader Alzheimer's & Healthy Aging Speaker Series. Register [here](#).

2022 Award for Excellence in Program Innovation: Call for Nominations
[The Aging and Public Health Section of the American Public Health Association](#) has several awards that highlight aging issues and recognize those who have taken positive action in support of older adults. One of these awards – the Archstone Foundation Award for Excellence in Program Innovation – focuses on identifying best practice models in the field of aging and health. A special emphasis is placed on programs that have effectively linked academic theory with applied practice in the field of aging and public health. Applications are due May 16, 2022. [Learn more about this award opportunity](#).

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.

NACCHO's Subject Matter Expert Advisory Workgroups

National Association of County and City Health Officials' (NACCHO) Subject Matter Expert Advisory Workgroups help to identify opportunities and challenges facing local health departments and the field at large. NACCHO invites local health department leaders and their staff to [apply to help inform and guide NACCHO's projects](#). The application period for participation in the 2021-2022 Subject Matter Expert Advisory Workgroups will close on April 30, 2022. Participation in NACCHO's Workgroups is a benefit of active NACCHO Membership. For more information, email advisorygroups@naccho.org.

New Funding Opportunities for Working with Pharmacies and Retail Health Clinics for Sexual Health Services

NACCHO, with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention has two new funding opportunities for health diseases (STD) to partner with other healthcare entities to expand sexually transmitted illnesses (STI) and HIV services, treatment, and care in their communities. Informational webinars about both of these opportunities will be held in April, both dates are noted in the respective request for funding applications (RFA).

1. **Leveraging Pharmacies for STI Services and Care:** This funding is to explore the provision of expanded STI patient care via pharmacy settings. Two-to-five health department-pharmacy partnerships will be funded up to \$75,000 (per partnership) to develop, design, and implement a collaborative partnership between pharmacies and health departments to expand STI services and care. Findings will be shared broadly with STD programs and pharmacies across the country. **Applications are due on May 27, 2022.** For additional information or to access the RFA, visit [here](#).
2. **Leveraging Retail Health Clinics for STI/HIV Services and Care for Underserved: Minorities** (available only to Ending the HIV Epidemic priority jurisdictions) This funding is to support integration of sexual health services for underserved and under-diagnosed racial/ethnic and sexual minorities, including young people, across RHCs, health department, primary care, and other healthcare settings. Up to three health department-retail health clinic teams will be funded up to \$300,000 (per partnership) to develop, design, and implement a collaborative partnership to expand STI/HIV services and care. **Applications are due on May 31, 2022** . For additional information or to access the RFA, visit [here](#).

If you are interested in applying and need support with developing a partnership with a pharmacy or retail health clinic or have other questions, please contact Rebekah Horowitz at rhorowitz@naccho.org.

Resources:

COVID-19

COVID-19 Patients with Pneumonia and Risk for Dementia

Results from a recent study published in the Open Forum Infectious Diseases indicate that [hospitalized COVID-19 patients with pneumonia may have an increased risk for new-onset dementia following recovery](#). Among the 10,403 patients with COVID-19 pneumonia included in the study sample, 312 (3%) developed new onset dementia. This risk was higher among patients age 70 and older.

Benefit of Second Booster Shot for Older Adults

Based on research in Israel, [**a second booster can offer significant protections**](#) against severe illness for adults age 60 and older. Dr. Ashish Jha, the new White House COVID-19 response coordinator, commented that the “data out of Israel is pretty compelling for people over 60” and that second booster led to a substantial reduction in infections and death.

Additional Resources

Recommendations for Advancing Use of Equitable Data

As part of the [**Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government**](#), the Biden-Harris Administration has just released recommendations for advancing use of equitable data. President Biden directed an Equitable Data Working Group (“Working Group”) to study existing federal data collection policies, programs, and infrastructure to identify inadequacies and provide recommendations that lay out a strategy for increasing data available for measuring equity and representing the diversity of the American people. The following three priority uses for equitable data were identified: 1) generating disaggregated statistical estimates to characterize experiences of historically underserved groups using survey data; 2) increasing non-federal research and community access to disaggregated data for the evidence-building that supports equity efforts; and 3) conducting robust equity assessments of federal programs to identify areas for improvement.

Planning to Age In Place

The [**key to being able to age in place is advanced planning**](#) according to Beth Spencer, M.A., M.S.W., a retired geriatric social worker at the University of Michigan (U-M) Geriatrics Center, and Sheria Robinson-Lane, Ph.D., who studies aging in place topics at the U-M School of Nursing. They advise that one should “think of aging in place as a journey on a road.” The four tips on how to successfully age in place that Spencer and Robinson-Lane offer are 1) start planning now if you haven’t already; 2) take specific small steps to make aging in place easier; 3) think about bigger projects to adapt your home to fit your needs; and 4) overcome your reluctance to ask for, or pay for, help.

Strategies to Improve Health Equity from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

To close the gaps in health access, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have launched a [**multipronged plan to improve health equity efforts across the agency**](#). The strategies included in the plan are to enroll more people in Medicaid, Medicare, the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and the Affordable Care Act marketplace. The plan also calls for social determinants of health to be incorporated into health screenings, standardizing and expanding the use and collection of data, and assessing policies to determine how the agency can support safety net clinics. CMS commented that “This work includes working with and sharing best practices across states, health care facilities, providers, insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies, people with lived experience, researchers and other key stakeholders to drive commitments to advance health equity.”

Most Livable Small US Communities for Older Adults

The 10 towns in the US that offer the [**most supportive and comfortable environments for older adults**](#) are: Aspen, CO; Los Alamos, NM; Great Neck Plaza, NY; Orange City, IA; Falls Church, VA; La Crescent, MN; St. Anthony MN; White Rock, NM; Salida, CO; and Manorhaven, NY. This ranking is based on the recently updated [**AARP Livability Index**](#) which considers criteria such as walkability, costs of living, public transportation, social engagement, and the environment.

More People Experiencing Loneliness than Diabetes

In a recent interview with the *Miami Herald* U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy emphasized how [**loneliness and isolation were linked to an increased risk of anxiety, depression, premature death, dementia and heart disease**](#). Dr. Murthy commented that as he reviewed the research and the data on loneliness, he realized that “we have more people who struggle with loneliness in our country than have diabetes.” He also notes that loneliness is a “warning signal that’s similar to hunger or thirst that tells us when something we need that’s critical for our survival is missing, and in this case it’s social connection.”

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CONTACT

TRUST FOR AMERICA'S HEALTH
1730 M ST NW
SUITE 900
WASHINGTON, DC 20036

P (202) 223-9870

F (202) 223-9871

E AFPHSNEWS@TFAH.ORG

