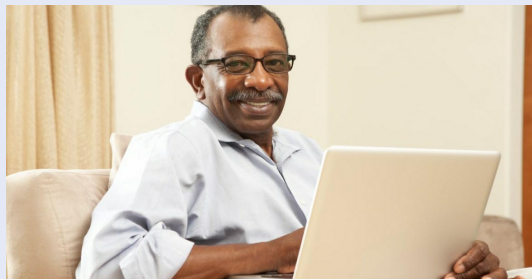


December 14, 2022

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems Learning and Action Network News



News:

Thank you to all who have continued to engage with the AFPHS Newsletter. Your commitment to enhancing the lives of older adults by supporting healthy aging efforts are deeply appreciated. In 2023 we hope you will consider joining the AFPHS trainings, which will continue to be held on the third Thursday of each month at 3 pm ET. The 2023 series of trainings will provide guidance and public health practice recommendations aligned with the AFPHS 6Cs Framework.

Happy Holidays to you and yours!
The AFPHS Team

Congratulations Summit County!
Summit County Public Health in Ohio has been officially recognized as an Exemplar through the AFPHS Recognition Program.

Events and Opportunities:

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems (AFPHS) Monthly Trainings

The December AFPHS training will provide guidance for public health practitioners to incorporate equitable healthy aging components within public health practices that address the social determinants of health, all in the context of the AFPHS 6Cs Framework.

This session will be held **December 15 at 3 pm ET**. Register [here](#).

You can also view a recording of our **November training** – Public Health Influence and Authority in Healthy Aging and Brain Health Through Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change – and read our latest blog post [What's Public Health Got to Do With...State Health Officials?](#)

Help us reach our goal of recognizing 100 Champions this year! Individuals who attend 6 or more AFPHS monthly trainings will be designated as AFPHS Champions. More than 40 people across the country have been recognized as Champions to date. Visit the [AFPHS Recognition Program page](#) for more information.

Looking Ahead: Insights, Challenges and Opportunities for the Future of Public Health – *Wednesday, December 14, 2022, 3:00pm – 4:00pm ET*. The American Public Health Association is hosting a webinar on the future of public health. Four public health experts will share their visions for the future of public health, bringing unique perspectives from the community, national, global, and cross-sectoral levels. They will also share lessons learned from collaborative efforts to transform public health, examine major

threats and opportunities for the next generation, and reflect on how we can engage communities and partners to create new champions for public health and equity. Register [here](#).

Telehealth & Health Equity: Finding a Patient-Focused Balance – Friday, December 16, 2022, 12:00pm ET. This webinar, featuring panelists with deep policy, academic, and real-world expertise in telehealth and health equity, will focus on the impact of telehealth policy during the COVID-19 pandemic, the challenges in the current policy landscape, and the outlook for the future of telehealth. Register [here](#).

UsA2 Brain Health Equity Nurse Fellowship

Applications for the Brain Health Equity Fellowship are now open. The fellowship, which is supported by the National Association of Hispanic Nurses, National Black Nurses Association, UsAgainstAlzheimer's and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will train a cohort of nurse professionals to be brain health ambassadors. The fellowship will run from February to August 2023, require a commitment of approximately 25 hours total, and will include a \$2,000 stipend. To learn more about the program and its objectives, and to apply, [Click here](#). The online application is due by **January 1, 2023**.

Funding Opportunity: Public Health AmeriCorps Program

The next round of funding for the [Public Health AmeriCorps](#) program is now available. Organizations interested in hosting one or more Public Health AmeriCorps members may apply for the [2023 Public Health AmeriCorps Grant](#) until **January 4, 2023 by 5pm ET**. Eligible organizations include Indian Tribes, institutions of higher education, local governments, public health departments, nonprofit organizations, state service commissions, and states and U.S. Territories. Successful applicants will be notified in April 2023.

Call for Applications – 2023 National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems Racial Equity Learning Collaborative

The National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems (NCAPPS) is launching a second Racial Equity Learning Collaborative in partnership with colleagues at the Georgetown University National Center for Cultural Competence. From January to July of 2023, participants will engage in self-reflection and develop deep understanding of how each of us can promote racial equity within disability, aging, mental health, and related service settings. Participation is limited to 50 people who use or who work in long-term service and support (LTSS) settings such as provider organizations, state or county agencies, residential group settings, nursing facilities, etc. People with lived experience of using LTSS are especially encouraged to take part in this Learning Collaborative. Priority will be given to members of teams currently receiving technical assistance from NCAPPS. [Click here](#) to learn more for information. Applications are due by **9 pm ET on January 2, 2023**. Questions can be addressed to NCAPPS Project Manager, Saska Rajcevic at srajcevic@hsri.org.

Call for Papers – Reimagining Public Health Preparedness with Lessons from COVID-19

The 2022 Preparedness Summit Planning Committee and the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security invite manuscripts for a special supplement to the *Health Security* journal. The aim of the supplement is to contribute to a growing body of knowledge about the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on public health preparedness. Potential authors are encouraged to submit manuscripts that consider how the COVID-19 pandemic is transforming public health preparedness policy and practice and discuss what public health preparedness needs to look like in the future. [Learn more](#).

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Rural HIV and Aging Challenge

The "\$500,000 Rural HIV and Aging Challenge" is an opportunity created by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy (OIDP) and the Administration for Community Living (ACL). The Challenge is a competition to identify innovative and effective pilot solutions that address the needs of people aging with HIV in rural communities, with a focus on racial and ethnic minorities and LGBTQ+ populations. Some of examples of areas that solutions can focus on include:

- identifying HIV and aging service integration interventions including, but not limited to, addressing poverty, access to health care services, and education that

- improve health outcomes;
- reducing socio economic barriers and improve access to mental health services particularly in rural communities;
- addressing social determinants of health, particularly wellness through physical activity, nutrition and others that improve overall quality of life;
- reducing health inequities for people in rural communities, who are aging with HIV or long-term survivors, particularly among racial and ethnic minorities and LGBTQ+ populations;
- promoting and providing health education and training; or
- evaluating scalability of existing solutions.

The submission period: Phase 1 is open until **January 31, 2023 at 5:00 pm ET**. [Click here](#) for more information.

Funding Opportunity – 2023 Empowering Communities to Deliver and Sustain Evidence-Based Falls Prevention Programs

The [2023 Empowering Communities to Deliver and Sustain Evidence-Based Falls Prevention Programs](#) from the Administration for Community Living will support organizations to reduce falls and fall risk among older adults and adults with disabilities through evidence-based falls prevention programs. The Administration for Community Living plans to award four to six cooperative agreements with a four-year project period. The two primary goals are: 1) to develop capacity to increase the number of older adults and adults with disabilities who participate in evidence-based falls prevention programs to empower them to reduce falls and/or their risk of falls and 2) to identify and implement one or more robust strategies that will promote the sustainability of evidence-based falls prevention programs. Applications are due by **January 11, 2023**.

Funding Opportunity – 2023 Empowering Communities to Deliver and Sustain Evidence-Based Chronic Disease Self-Management Programs

The [2023 Empowering Communities to Deliver and Sustain Evidence-Based Chronic Disease Self-Management Education Programs](#) from the Administration for Community Living (ACL) asks applicants to propose how they will develop the capacity for, and deliver and sustain evidence-based self-management education and support programs for older adults and adults with disabilities. ACL plans to award four to six cooperative agreements with a four-year project period. The two primary goals are: 1) to develop capacity to increase the number of older adults and adults with disabilities who participate in evidence-based self-management education and self-management support programs to empower them to better manage their chronic conditions; and 2) to identify and implement one or more robust strategies that will promote the sustainability of evidence-based self-management education and self-management support programs. Applications are due by **January 11, 2023**.

Resources:

Caregiving

Online Resource Library for Caregivers and Older Adults

Developed in 2021 by the CDC Foundation, [Search. Find. Help.](#) provides support for older adults and their caregivers by connecting them to over 300 resources and programs that help during public health emergencies like COVID-19. The online tool also has an [action plan](#) that can be completed to help organizations select, adapt, and implement programs to meet the needs of their communities. The resource has recently been updated with over 60 new resources.

New Report Provides Six Strategies to Support Family Caregivers

The National Academy for State Health Policy's (NASHP) State Policy Institute on Family Caregiving recently released a report describing the [lessons learned from six states that were part of the Institute](#). The NASHP State Policy Institute was developed in concert with the RAISE Family Caregivers Act and helped to inform the development of the 2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers. The six states included in the report are Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Illinois, New York, and Utah.

Caring for the Caregivers

The Institute for Healthcare Improvement's Age-Friendly Health Systems movement recently implemented a [pilot program to support caregivers of older adults](#). The goals of the program are: to 1) transform how staff think about and interact with family caregivers; and 2) provide programs and services for family caregivers to address their own needs and help them more effectively support the older adults in their lives. One of the key takeaways from this pilot is that the [4Ms Framework](#) (What Matters, Medication, Mentation, and Mobility) can be applied to caregivers in addition to patients.

Health Equity

Equity Framework for Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities

Gaining access to services that provide assistance to older adults and adults with disabilities is highly dependent on factors like race, ethnicity, age, disability, and language. The [**Equity Framework for Evaluating California's Medi-Cal Home and Community-Based Services for Older Adults and People with Disabilities**](#) was created to address the systemic racism, discrimination, and bias that Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) programs are susceptible to. Policy makers, providers, advocates, and interested parties in other states can use the framework for evaluating their own HCBS programs. The Framework identifies the following five domains of HCBS programs where inequities can arise: 1) Program Design; 2) Provider Availability; 3) Program Awareness and Enrollment; 4) Assessments and Authorization of Services; and 5) Provision of HCBS. Examples are provided for each domain of how inequities can arise and provides additional policies, program rules, and decision points in which an equity evaluation should be considered.

New Brief Highlights Equity Strategies

A new issue brief from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) –[**Centering Equity in the Nation's Public Health System: Considerations for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Its State, Local, Territorial, and Tribal Public Health Partners**](#) – contains five considerations that complement equity strategies raised by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in its [**Moving Forward**](#) assessment.

National Indian Council on Aging Resources

The Native Elder Storytelling Project

November was National Native American Heritage Month. The National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA) paid tribute to the rich tradition of storying among American Indians and Alaska Natives with a storytelling project. This [**collection of digital stories share the personal journeys and experiences of Native elders**](#) as they relate to current issues, programs, and how to integrate them with Native ways of life. The stories were created, written, and voiced by elders and also include personal photos and other media to provide a visual storytelling aspect. The goal of this project is to help educate and encourage Tribal communities, the Aging Network, and policymakers to positively impact the future of American Indian and Alaska Native elders.

Webinar on Misinformation during COVID-19

In a [**recent webinar hosted by the National Indian Council on Aging**](#), presenters provided an overview of misinformation and provided a forum to discuss how to make sense of information received and viewed online. The webinar also addressed misinformation in Indian Country and the best strategies to counter it.

A New Tribal Long-Term Care Website

The [**National Indian Council-Aging \(NICOA\) LTSS Compass website**](#) is a new comprehensive website for eldercare services in Indian Country. This website provides an opportunity for Tribal communities to learn about long-term services and supports (LTSS). NICOA hopes that the LTSS Compass will empower Tribal communities to develop or expand LTSS for American Indian and Alaska Native elders and persons with disabilities within their local communities.

Additional Resources

Addressing the Needs of Sicker Older Adults in Assisted Living Facilities

Residents of assisted living communities are older, sicker, and have more impairments than in the past. Data from the National Center for Health Statistics indicate that 55% are 85 and older, 77% require help with bathing, 69% with walking, 49% with toileting, and as many as 42% have dementia or moderate-to-severe cognitive impairment. A panel of experts is calling for [**more focus on their medical and mental health needs**](#). The panel developed several recommendations including addressing the ratios of health aides to residents, getting staff trained on several topics (managing dementia and mental illness, medication side effects, end-of-life care, tailoring care to individual residents' needs and infection control), regularly assessing residents' needs, and including residents in the care planning process.

Toys for Older Adults

Patricia Gallagher, a Philadelphia resident, [**fills her car with stuffed animals and delivers them to older adults**](#) every holiday season. She started this tradition in 2009 when she started reading "Twas the Night Before Christmas" to nursing home residents. She would bring some of her kids' stuffed animals for the residents to hold. After the story ended, no one wanted to give the stuffed animals back because they thought they were gifts. She started putting ads on Craigslist, collecting stuffed animals from donations received at schools, and receiving donations from synagogues and families. She now donates them to senior living facilities, and homes for veterans and retired nuns.

Addressing Social Determinants of Health through Capacity Building

Getting Further Faster (GFF) initiative is a co-led National Association of County and City Health Officials- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials endeavor that provided funding and capacity-building technical assistance to 42 multisector community partnerships (MCPs). Many of these MCPs include local health departments and some state health departments. Participants take part in a rapid, retrospective impact evaluation to identify best, promising, or emerging practices that advance health equity and improve chronic disease conditions by addressing one or more of the following social determinants of health (SDOH) areas. The information being gathered is also being used to inform an effort within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to establish a set of coalition-based SDOH metrics for informing future funding.

Collaborating to Address Influenza Vaccination Among Older Adults

A new National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) report – **Collaboration to Address Influenza Vaccination Among Older Adults** – outlines NACCHO's ongoing commitment to prevent the spread of influenza through increasing vaccinations. NACCHO also held a virtual roundtable collaborative in July of 2022 to address issues surrounding influenza vaccination of older adults, with the goal to increase influenza vaccination of older adults to 80%.

Assessing the Direct Care Workforce in Rural Areas

To examine the disparities that exist in the supply of home health aides in rural areas compared to urban areas, **researchers at the University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center developed a policy brief** using Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics data. Some of the key findings include:

- There are, on average, 32.9 home health aides per 1,000 older adults (age 65+) in rural areas and 50.4 home health aides per 1,000 older adults in urban areas.
- Additionally, there are, on average, 20.9 nursing assistants per 1,000 older adults in rural areas compare to 25.3 nursing assistants per 1,000 older adults in urban areas.
- These findings indicate that the ratio of home health aides in urban areas relative to the older adult population is about 34.7% larger than the ratio in rural areas, and the ratio of nursing assistants in urban areas is 17.4% times larger than the ratio in rural areas.

Long-Term Implications of Mental Health Disorders

Mental health disorders increased during the pandemic. **A recent Milbank Quarterly Opinion article** outlines four considerations for navigating overall health given the elevated and persistent mental health burden associated with the pandemic. These considerations include mental health's impact on mortality and morbidity, and the greater burden of mental health disorders on people with fewer resources. The author, Sandro Galea, suggests a “recentering of mental health in the population health conversation” to address these mental health needs.

Community Care Hub National Learning Community Participants Announced

The Administration for Community Living (ACL), with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, selected **58 organizations to participate in the Community Care Hub National Learning Community**. These organizations will participate in shared learning, information and resource sharing, and technical assistance coordination with the goal of building the strength and preparedness of each Community Care Hub to address health-related social needs and public health needs through contracts with health care entities. A Community Care Hub is a community-focused entity that organizes and supports a network of community-based organizations providing services to address health-related social needs. Technical assistance will be provided by the Aging and Disability Business Institute at USAging in conjunction with ACL and Mission Analytics.

An Age-Friendly and Interconnected Michigan

The **Strategically Partnering for Age-Friendly Health in Michigan Conference** held in October was the first of its kind in the state. More than 120 aging leaders and innovators gathered for the event to discuss age-friendly health. In addition to focusing on the ways Michigan can expand age-friendly work through programs and expanding the workforce, how age-friendly principles can be injected into the eco-system to make this part of care delivery was also discussed at this conference.

New Resource to Navigate Hybrid Programming

Many organizations are looking at ways to provide flexible programming options by offering both in person and virtual opportunities. In partnership with Older Adults Technology Services from AARP, engAGED developed a publication that highlights hybrid programming for older adults. **Implementing Hybrid Programs: Considerations and Best Practices for Aging Network Organizations** provides key considerations, organizational tips and best practices for organizations considering hybrid programs.

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