

December 15, 2023

AFPHS News



News:



Thank you to all who have continued to engage with the AFPHS Newsletter. We look forward to sharing more in the coming year. The 2024 AFPHS series of trainings will provide context on the intersection of equity with several key public health topics.

Happy Holidays to you and yours!
The AFPHS Team

Events and Opportunities:

Age-Friendly Public Health Systems (AFPHS) Monthly Trainings

TFAH's 2023 AFPHS training series provides guidance on implementing each of the AFPHS 6Cs (based on [the 6Cs Framework](#)). Each recorded session highlights specific examples of public health programs, policies, and other activities that align with the 6Cs and advance healthy aging as a core function. You can view recordings of each of the 2023 trainings [here](#).

The first training of 2024 will be our annual training on ageism. This session will provide context on how mitigating ageism is also a way to improve equity. This session will be held on **January 18 at 3 pm ET**. Register [here](#).

Build your expertise and healthy aging knowledge! Individuals who attend 6 or more AFPHS monthly trainings will be designated as AFPHS Champions. More than 80 people across the country have been recognized as Champions to date. Visit the [AFPHS Recognition Program page](#) for more information.

Finding Connection Through Food: Cooking Meals Together – December 19, 2023, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm ET. Cooking and eating together has many benefits for older adults including increased social connection and better overall health. The Tri-State Learning Collaborative on Aging is hosting a webinar where local organizations will share how cooking together can promote better social and health outcomes for older adults in their communities. Register [here](#).

Strengthening the Dementia Capable Workforce: Dementia Training for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Providers – January 16, 2024, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm ET. The National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center is hosting a

webinar that will explore educational programs that are utilized when training providers of aging and intellectual and developmental disability services. This session will also highlight how Ohio built systems to support individuals living with dementia, their families, and providers within local communities. Lessons learned, impact findings from educational sessions, accessible and replicable resources, and information on the overall system changes will be shared. Register [here](#).

Opportunity to Comment: 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee – January 19, 2024, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm ET Convened jointly by the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Agriculture, the meeting will provide an opportunity for the Advisory Committee to hear updates from each subcommittee and discuss progress made since the third public meeting. Topics will include protocol development, evidence review and synthesis, draft conclusion statements, and plans for future committee work, including development of the committee’s scientific report. These virtual meetings provide attendees with the opportunity to provide comments as the 2025 Dietary Guidelines are being developed. Register [here](#).

Request for Applications – Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) Model Now Available

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is currently [accepting applications for the Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience \(GUIDE\) Model](#), which aims to support people living with dementia and their caregivers. The GUIDE Model will test whether providing an alternative payment methodology for participating dementia care programs reduces expenditures while preserving or enhancing quality of care. Eligible participants include Medicare Part B-enrolled providers or suppliers, excluding durable medical equipment and laboratory suppliers. A GUIDE participant must meet the GUIDE Model’s care delivery requirements but may choose to partner with other organizations, including both Medicare-enrolled providers and suppliers and non-Medicare enrolled entities, including community-based organizations (CBOs), to meet these requirements. CMS plans to announce applicants selected to participate in **Spring 2024**. The model will launch on **July 1, 2024**, and will run for eight years. The application period will close on **Tuesday, January 30, 2024**

Next HBI Road Map for Indian Country

The process to update the [HBI Road Map for Indian Country](#) has begun, starting with an open input period. The response window will close on **January 19th**. This feedback will help shape the guide for the public health response to Alzheimer’s and dementia led by American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Input can be shared [here](#).

Care Transitions ECHO Series Technical Assistance Opportunity

The Administration for Community Living is inviting hospitals, health systems, Accountable Care Organizations and community-based organizations (CBOs) to a special series of learning events and discussions around collaborative approaches to screening for health-related social needs, connecting with community-based social services, and supporting transitions pre- and post-discharge. The monthly meeting series and peer discussion groups will run from January through August 2024. The goal is to leverage community partnerships and assets to address patient’s unmet health-related social needs. This learning opportunity uses the [Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes \(ECHO\) Model®](#), an “all teach, all learn” approach to peer-based learning. Participating teams will learn from leaders with successful approaches to HRSN screening, referral, and care transition programs and be equipped with actionable strategies to implement in their own organizations. To participate in the virtual ECHO series, CBOs should have an established relationship with a hospital partner. Participating organizations should plan to include partner staff to work together as a team throughout the learning series. Recommended attendees may include case managers, discharge planning staff, quality measurement professionals, and senior leadership overseeing population health. More information about this learning series is available [here](#).

Interested organizations should [complete this brief survey](#) prior to **January 12, 2024** to indicate interest. Please contact caretransitions@lewin.com with questions.

Resources:

Trainings and Curriculum

New Public Health and Dementia Caregiving Curriculum

The Alzheimer’s Association’s Healthy Brain Initiative has launched a new, free, interactive curriculum on public health and dementia caregiving. This resource was created in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the University of Minnesota’s BOLD Public Health Center of Excellence on Dementia Caregiving, and Emory University. Designed for the current and future public health workforce, the new module, [Public Health and Dementia Caregiving](#), is accompanied by a one-page

flyer, a step-by-step guide on accessing the training, and an instructor guide to supplement the individual learning format.

Training Course on Adult Protective Services (APS)

ADvancing States has released an updated training course – [**“An Introduction to Adult Protective Services.”**](#) The core pillars of the APS program, an overall understanding of APS, the history of these services, and the standard APS practice model are reviewed in the training. This course will also help participants identify state structures for APS programs as well as understand the federal role in supporting the programs.

Including People With Disabilities in Disaster Operations

The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Office of Disability Integration and Coordination has released a new version of their training course – [**“Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Operations.”**](#) All personnel involved in disaster operations can use the information provided. An introductory overview of information and strategies on how to include people with disabilities during mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts are included.

Brain & Mental Health

Highlights from Public Workshop on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders

Earlier this year the National Academies Forum on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders [**hosted a public workshop**](#) to highlight the current state of mental health care for older adults, outline the challenges they face, and explore potential long-term strategies and solutions for addressing unmet mental health needs. Discussions emphasized information about wellness and prevention, social determinants of health among older adults, the impact of workforce shortages and gaps, the need for supportive healthy communities, and strategies to promote positive mental health.

New Report on Traumatic Brain Injury among Older Adults in California

The California Department of Public Health’s Injury and Violence Prevention Branch’s [**Healthy Aging Initiative**](#) in collaboration with the Core Statewide Injury Prevention Program developed a new report about traumatic brain injury. [**“Traumatic Brain Injury Among Older Californians, 2021”**](#) highlights the burden and risk for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) among older adults, age 55 and older, in California. This resource includes information on the top causes for older adult TBI deaths, hospitalizations, and emergency department visits in California.

Brain Care Scoring Tool

A new tool, the [**Brain Care Score**](#) (BCS), developed by the Massachusetts General Hospital McCance Center for Brain Health examines 12 health-related factors on physical, lifestyle, and social-emotional health to assess stroke and dementia risk. [**Receiving a higher score on the 21-point scale is associated with a lower risks for dementia and stroke.**](#) The study’s senior author and cofounder of the McCance Center for Brain Health at Massachusetts General Hospital Dr. Jonathan Rosand commented that “patients and practitioners can start focusing more on improving their BCS today, and the good news is improving on these elements will also provide overall health benefits.” The study is published in the journal *Frontiers in Neurology*.

Higher Suicide Rates among Older Men

[**In a recent NPR interview**](#), Kim Van Orden, co-director of the Center for the Study and Prevention of Suicide at the University of Rochester Data, commented on the higher suicide rates among men ages 75 and older. These rates continue to be two or three times higher than many other age groups. Some of the reasons for this is because older men are less likely to share their suicidal thoughts, are more likely to plan, and are more likely to use more immediately lethal means. Van Orden shared that “One thing we need to do as a society, as more people have the privilege of living longer, is have more professionals who work with older people.”

Vaccine Resources

The Eldercare Locator 2023 Home For The Holidays Campaign

This year’s focus for [**Eldercare Locator's Home for the Holidays campaign**](#) is on encouraging older adults to protect themselves and their families by getting vaccinated. The campaign addresses connecting older adults, caregivers, and families with local resources to support getting vaccinated. Materials for this campaign include a brochure, vaccine fact sheet, aging network toolkit, and social media graphics.

National Vaccine Initiatives and Resources

The Administration for Community Living awarded grants to USAging and the National Council on Aging (NCOA) to rapidly increase the number of older adults and people with disabilities who have received the updated COVID-19 vaccine and annual flu vaccine.

USAgings Aging And Disability Vaccination Collaborative (ADVC) is distributing funding for aging and disability organizations to perform an array of COVID-19 and influenza vaccination promotion activities. Activities may include providing community vaccine clinics for the updated COVID-19 vaccine or flu vaccine, in-home vaccinations, transportation to vaccination sites, and conducting outreach to and education for older adults and people with disabilities. USAging also launched a **"You've Got This" Campaign** to encourage older adults and people with disabilities to get vaccinated this fall and winter. Under **NCOA's COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccine Uptake Initiative**, 38 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico were recently awarded grants to conduct tailored outreach, host vaccine clinics, and offer services to help older adults and people with disabilities get the latest COVID-19 booster and flu vaccine. The different types of grantees range from senior centers to state and local health departments to community clinics serving diverse populations.

Free Access to COVID-19 Rapid Tests

As of November 20th, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is providing every U.S. household the opportunity to receive **four more free COVID-19 rapid tests**. Households that did not place an order in the fall can receive two orders now, for a total of eight tests.

Positive Outcomes Associated with Co-administered Flu and RSV Vaccines

The co-administration of the seasonal influenza vaccine and the respiratory syncytial virus vaccine was **"well-tolerated and achieved immune responses"** in a study of 1,399 older adults. Published in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, the study showed that local reactions and systemic events from the vaccines were mostly mild or moderate in severity.

Homelessness

Older Adult Homelessness

A new report from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation highlights the issue of homelessness among older adults.

Homelessness in this population has been increasing rapidly in recent years. This report provides an overview of the population of older adults at risk for experiencing homelessness and describes what services and supports are available to serve them. Information about the racial and ethnic groups disproportionately impacted by homelessness is included. Potential policy options aimed at better serving this population are also provided.

Alleviating Homelessness in Missouri

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, homelessness among adults ages 65 and older in the US is anticipated to grow from 40,000 to 106,000 by 2030. In Springfield, Missouri **several organizations are working together to alleviate the issue in that area.** Local organizations One Door, The Kitchen, Safe to Sleep and the Connecting Grounds Outreach Center are working together to provide services in Greene County, Missouri. One Door services as the "point of entry" for accessing these services and housing solutions. Many of these adults are experiencing homelessness due to health complications or being exploited by family or friends.

Additional Resources

Podcast on Age- and Dementia Friendly Movement in Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative **ReiMagine Aging podcast series** highlights local efforts in Massachusetts to expand Age- and Dementia-Friendly communities.. The stories in the series feature community members, and they describe why Massachusetts is a great place to grow older.

Explaining Equity in your Work

In a new blog post hosted by the Milbank Memorial Fund, author Morgan McDonald shares thoughts on **how you explain health equity** to people that "shut down" when they hear the words health equity. McDonald shared that "Health equity work in government is about weaving grace into the systems and programs that affect the lives of millions." She also notes that "It's about inviting patients and constituents affected by government-funded programs into conversations to build those programs, even inviting criticism to be able to better see the barriers in our systems."

Benefit of Food as Medicine Program for Diabetes

A recent study conducted on Abbott's Healthy Food Rx, a food as medicine program that provides home-delivered medical prescriptions of healthy food to help address diabetes, showed that participants had lower A1C levels, improved diabetes self-management and, improved overall diet quality and food security. This Stockton, CA program was designed and implemented by Public Health Institute's Center for Wellness and Nutrition. It brings together Stockton-based organizations to help individuals living

with diabetes. The approximately 450 participants in the program receive free recipe-based food boxes and hands-on education about managing their diabetes through nutrition. Healthy Food Rx is one of the largest food as medicine programs for people with diabetes in the country.

Providing Person-Centered, Trauma-Informed Care to Older Adults and Family Caregivers

Using funding from a 2021 supplemental grant from the Administration for Community Living (ACL), the Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) recently released [**an updated guidance memorandum on delivering person-centered, trauma-informed \(PCTI\) care to Holocaust survivors, older adults with trauma histories, and their family caregivers**](#). This publication is an update to the previous guidance memorandum published by ACL in 2017. The guidance includes the following four sections: 1) an introduction to the topics of trauma and PTSD, how trauma influences the aging process, and how the PCTI approach can help; 2) recommendations for aging service professionals and volunteers to better care for older adults with a history of trauma, and their family caregivers, through the PCTI approach; 3) trauma history and service considerations for several older adult populations with higher rates of trauma than the general United States population; and 4) the impact of trauma on family caregivers of older adults with a history of trauma.

New Resources to Help Coordinate Health Care, Public Health, and Social Services

New resources developed by the White House and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, offer support to federal agencies, states, local, and tribal governments to [**better coordinate health care, public health and social services**](#). This includes a first-of-its-kind [**U.S. Playbook to Address Social Determinants of Health**](#), which provides agencies and organizations with information on reimagining new policies and actions around social determinants of health and how to work towards health equity.

Preparing for Winter Weather Issues

The winter weather can bring about several issues for older adults and other at-risk populations including loss of utilities and home damage. The following resources can help prepare public health professionals in providing support to impacted individuals:

- [**Legal Aid Disaster Resource Center**](#)
- [**Practicing Law Institute: New Developments in Climate Disaster Response & Resilience**](#): The training is available at no cost
- [**Ready—Winter Weather**](#): Includes information on preparing for and responding to winter weather
- [**NCLER: Programs to Keep Older Adults Connected to Energy and Utility Services**](#): This training provides steps and information that can help households keep the utilities on
- [**NCLER: Addressing Housing Issues Facing Older Adults Following a Natural Disaster**](#): This training discusses common housing issues faced by homeowners and renters following a natural disaster
- [**NCLER: Preserving Homeownership: Tangled Title & Associated Probate Issues**](#): This training shares what advocates can do to help clients untangle and clear up the title to a property
- [**National Consumer Law Center \(NCLC\)—Disaster Relief & Consumer Protection**](#): NCLC provides information on topics like housing relief, avoiding home repair fraud, and utility issues
- [**DisasterAssistance.gov**](#): This resource provides information, support, services, and a means to access and apply for disaster assistance

New Report on Addressing Direct Care Workforce Shortage

The Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC) released a new report on addressing issues related to the long-standing shortage of direct care workers. [**Addressing the Direct Care Workforce Shortage: A Bipartisan Call to Action**](#) includes findings from research, interviews with stakeholders and federal policy experts, and private roundtable discussions. The following three major challenges to recruiting and retaining direct care workers were identified: 1) work environments that do not effectively support workers' needs; 2) domestic workforce programs that predominantly target more medicalized or credentialed professions and an immigration system that is not structured to ensure adequate visa and green card pathways exist for foreign-born workers who desire to help fill unmet demand for direct care workers; and 3) the absence of standardized data collection and publicly available data on the volume, stability, compensation, and profile of the direct care workforce. Bipartisan legislative and administrative federal policy solutions to address these issues are also provided.

New Data Highlights American Rescue Plan Investments in Home and Community-Based Services

New data from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services indicate that the [**American**](#)

Rescue Plan is helping to deliver about \$37 billion in support across all 50 states for efforts that enhance, expand, and strengthen home and community-based services. Some of the outcomes include: 1) investing over \$25 billion to help retain, expand, and train direct care workforces; 2) supporting family caregivers; 3) expanding access to community-based care by addressing waitlists in 21 states; and 4) addressing key structural gaps and addressing social determinants of health such as housing.

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