

InnovAGING NJ 2024



PROGRAM GUIDE



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
Hub for Aging Collaboration
School of Social Work



**A showcase of
innovative programs
and partnerships that
are improving the lives
of older adults and
changing norms for
aging in New Jersey**

InnovAGING NJ 2024

FRIDAY, MARCH 22 | 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM ET

Meeting Zoom information:
<https://go.rutgers.edu/InnovAGING>



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
Hub for Aging Collaboration
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CONTENTS

04

Letter from Event Host

Go to section of program guide →

05

Schedule

Go to section of program guide →

06

Presentations by Topic

Go to section of program guide →

07

Presentations At-A-Glance

Go to section of program guide →

10

Presentation Descriptions

Go to section of program guide →

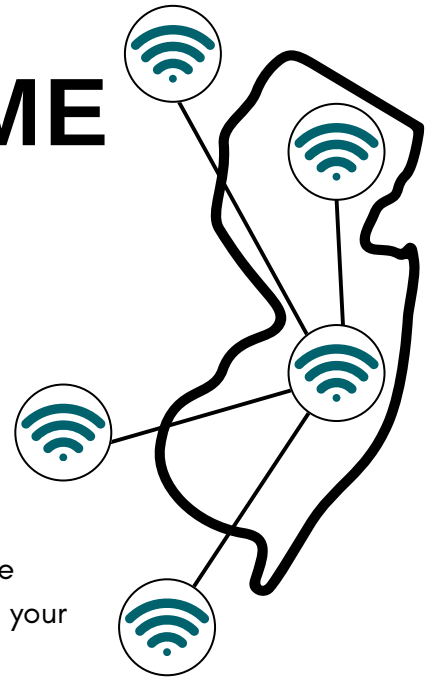


NEED ASSISTANCE?

IT support is available during the event. Look for the Zoom participant with "IT" in their name or call 848-932-8030.

WORDS OF WELCOME

FROM THE EVENT HOST



Dear All:

Welcome to InnovAGING NJ 2024! Thank you for joining us as we continuously co-create a better future for aging and health equity in the Garden State.

In today's digital world, there are many wonderful opportunities for online learning through webinars, workshops, and virtual conferences. We hope your experience at InnovAGING is especially memorable and unique.

InnovAGING's novel focus is its cross-cutting emphasis on aging, innovation, and New Jersey. As reflected in this program guide, the sessions address initiatives across a multitude of sectors, systems levels, and topic areas. We are especially proud that today's program has as much content about state policy progress as it does about grassroots community programs. We hope you are able to take full advantage of our "live" time together by asking questions, expressing appreciation for colleagues' work, making connections, and more.

We also express our gratitude to today's presenters. We have been so grateful to learn more about your work throughout our planning for today's event, and we are excited for the opportunity for others to learn as well. Thank you for your partnerships!

And thank you again to all for joining us. May we continue to find and create meaningful ways to collaborate, join, promote, and strengthen each other's work and innovation for aging in New Jersey—from the local to statewide, now and toward the future.

Sincerely,

Emily A. Greenfield (she/hers), PhD
Professor, School of Social Work
Director, Hub for Aging Collaboration



SCHEDULE

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 9:30 – 9:40 | WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS |
| 9:40 – 10:10 | BREAKOUT SESSION #1 |
| 10:10 - 10:20 | DIGNITARY REMARKS |
| 10:20 - 10:50 | BREAKOUT SESSION #2 |
| 10:50 - 11:20 | BREAKOUT SESSION #3 |
| 11:20 - 11:30 | CLOSING REMARKS AND EVALUATION |

DIGNITARY REMARKS *presented by*



Kaylee McGuire

Deputy Commissioner
for Aging and Disability Services
New Jersey Department of
Human Services

SESSIONS BY TOPIC

The following pages list the titles of the presentations scheduled for each of the breakout sessions. Below you will also find the presentations organized by content "tags." In-depth descriptions for each presentation can be found in the [Presentation Descriptions](#) section.

| BY TAG | PRESENTATION # |
|---|---|
| Advocacy | 1.3, 1.4, 1.8, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.6, 2.8, 3.1, 3.2, 3.8 |
| Age-Friendly | 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.2, 3.3, 3.6 |
| Caregiving | 2.4 |
| Community Program | 1.1, 1.5, 1.7, 2.4, 2.5, 2.7, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 |
| Dementia | 1.7, 3.4 |
| Disabilities | 1.4, 2.1, 2.6, 2.8, 3.1, 3.8 |
| End of Life | 3.6 |
| Financial Security | 1.8 |
| Healthcare & Social Services | 1.2, 1.3, 1.6, 2.6, 2.8, 3.3, 3.8 |
| Housing | 1.2, 1.6, 2.2 |
| Intergenerational | 2.5 |
| LGBTQ+ | 2.7, 3.7 |
| Multi-Sector Collaboration | 1.1, 1.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.5 |
| Philanthropy | 3.2 |
| Social Inclusion | 1.4, 1.5, 1.7, 2.7, 3.1, 3.7 |
| State Policy | 1.3, 1.8, 2.2, 2.3, 2.6, 3.8 |
| Technology | 1.5, 3.4 |
| Transportation | 3.5 |
| Volunteers | 1.1, 2.4, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 |
| Workforce Development | 1.6, 2.5 |

PRESENTATIONS AT A GLANCE

SESSION 1 | 9:40 - 10:10 AM

| SESSION # | PRESENTATION TITLE <i>Click on session title to view description</i> | PRESENTING ORGANIZATION(S) | TOPIC TAGS |
|---|---|--|---|
| 1.1 | Bloom Where You're Planted: The Piscataway African American Seniors | Piscataway Senior Center; Piscataway African American Seniors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Program Multi-Sector Collaboration Volunteers |
| 1.2 | Advancing Equitable Assisted Living in New Jersey through Cross Sector Partnerships, Advocacy, and Education | The Bright Side Family; Capital Impact Partners | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthcare & Social Services Housing Multi-Sector Collaboration |
| 1.3 | NJ Pioneers Innovative Strategy to Expand Access to Community-Based Palliative Care | Goals of Care Coalition of New Jersey | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy Healthcare & Social Services State Policy |
| <i>Presentation 1.4 will no longer be offered. View session description for more information.</i> | | | |
| 1.4 | Talking "Outside the Box": Using Innovative Communications to Motivate Aging Populations | Hearing Loss Association of NJ, Cedar Crest "Hear Here!" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy Disabilities Social Inclusion |
| 1.5 | Tablets for Seniors: Bridging the Digital Divide | Children's Aid and Family Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Program Social Inclusion Technology |
| 1.6 | Advancing Aging Services Through Activity Programming and Supportive Services in Long-Term Care and Senior Affordable Housing-Based Communities | LeadingAge NJ & DE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthcare & Social Services Housing Workforce Development |
| 1.7 | Café Connection - A Memory Cafe | Jewish Family and Children's Service (JFCS) of Southern New Jersey | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Program Dementia Social Inclusion |
| 1.8 | Advocacy in Action: New Program to Help NJ Become Retire Ready | AARP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy Financial Security State Policy |

PRESENTATIONS AT A GLANCE

SESSION 2 | 10:20 - 10:50 AM

| SESSION # | PRESENTATION TITLE <i>Click on session title to view description</i> | PRESENTING ORGANIZATION(S) | TOPIC TAGS |
|-----------|--|--|---|
| 2.1 | The Integrated Community Project: Increasing Community Access and Quality of Life for All | Supportive Housing Association of NJ; Township of Stafford; Age-Friendly Teaneck | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocacy• Age-Friendly• Disabilities |
| 2.2 | All About ADUs | Regional Plan Association | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocacy• Age-Friendly• Housing• State Policy |
| 2.3 | Planning for Aging-Friendly Communities in NJ's State Development and Redevelopment Plan | New Jersey Future | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocacy• Age-Friendly• Multi-Sector Collaboration• State Policy |
| 2.4 | Low-Cost Strategies to Implement Research-Based Interventions to Improve Service Outcomes | Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Mercer County | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Caregiving• Community Program• Volunteers |
| 2.5 | Shaping the Future: The Role of the Exploring Careers in Aging Internship | The Bright Side Family; Age-Friendly Teaneck | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Program• Intergenerational• Workforce Development |
| 2.6 | Advocating for Equity: Expanding Financial Eligibility Criteria for NJ FamilyCare Programs Impacting Older Adults and People with Disabilities | Justice in Aging | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocacy• Disabilities• Healthcare & Social Services• State Policy |
| 2.7 | Re-Imagining Programs and Services Through the LGBTQ+ Lens | LGBT Senior Housing and Care | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Program• LGBTQ+• Social Inclusion |
| 2.8 | Building Community & Creating Change: The NJ Long-Term Care Ombudsman's Community Engagement Program | New Jersey Long-Term Care Ombudsman | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocacy• Disabilities• Healthcare & Social Services |

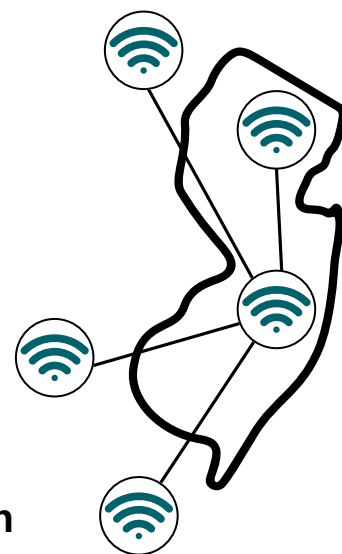
PRESENTATIONS AT A GLANCE

SESSION 3 | 10:50 - 11:20 AM

| SESSION # | PRESENTATION TITLE <i>Click on session title to view description</i> | PRESENTING ORGANIZATION(S) | TOPIC TAGS |
|-----------|--|---|---|
| 3.1 | Nature: Accessible For All | Pinelands Preservation Alliance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy • Disabilities • Multi-Sector Collaboration • Social Inclusion |
| 3.2 | Catalyzing Age-Friendly Community Change Through Creative Grantmaking | Grotta Fund for Older Adults; the Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy • Age-Friendly • Multi-Sector Collaboration • Philanthropy |
| 3.3 | Why JFS Chose the Village Model Over Traditional Older Adult Services? | Jewish Family Service of Atlantic and Cape May Counties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age-Friendly • Community Program • Healthcare & Social Services • Volunteers |
| 3.4 | Social Connections: How We are Making an Impact in Southern New Jersey with Community Partners | Samaritan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Program • Dementia • Technology • Volunteers |
| 3.5 | Navigating the Golden Years: Exploring Senior-Friendly Transportation Options | Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Program • Multi-Sector Collaboration • Transportation • Volunteers |
| 3.6 | Empowering Communities: Using the Conversation of Your Life (COYL) Toolkit to Support Advance Care Planning for Your Residents | New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age-Friendly • Community Program • End of Life |
| 3.7 | LGBTQ+ Aging with Pride: A Group for Adults 50+ | Jewish Family and Children's Service (JFCS) of Southern New Jersey | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Program • LGBTQ+ • Social Inclusion |
| 3.8 | New Legal Strategies to Help Individuals Age in Their Communities | Disability Rights New Jersey | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy • Disabilities • Healthcare & Social Services • State Policy |

PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

SESSION 1 | 9:40 - 10:10 AM



1.1 **Bloom Where You're Planted: The Piscataway African American Seniors**

Amy Bauman, Director Office on Aging, Piscataway Senior Center; Joyce Coles, President, Piscataway African American Seniors; Jeanette Bovell, Treasurer, Piscataway African American Seniors

The Piscataway African American Seniors (PAASC) is committed to developing programs that raise awareness of African Americans History and Heritage. As part of the municipal Piscataway Senior Center, our purpose is to promote harmony and build good relationships with all ethnic groups. So how do we bloom as we age? We engage with the community, the Senior Center, houses of worship, and other organizations. As all plants need nourishment, our sustenance is group members' talents and skills. Our programs include social events, fundraising for student scholarships, creative writing, and group travel for education and fellowship. We also host a chorus with participants of various ethnic groups. Then there's collaborative work such as library read-ins, street fairs, trick or suites, Juneteenth, Piscataway parades, and night out. It is all about blooming while aging, giving back to the community, and learning from others.

1.2 **Advancing Equitable Assisted Living in New Jersey through Cross Sector Partnerships, Advocacy, and Education**

Elizabeth Davis, Executive Director, The Bright Side Family; Candace Robinson, Director, Healthy Communities, Capital Impact Partners

According to Health Affairs, by 2029 more than half of older adults, or approximately 7 million individuals, will not be able to afford the care and housing they will need. Assisted living is a model that provides housing-based services for people who regularly need assistance as they age. However, the current average cost of assisted living in NJ is \$6,495, well beyond the means of a majority of older adults. And, this rate does not reflect the cost of add-on services that most assisted living residents require. This presentation is a call to action for nonprofit organizations and others across the private and public sectors to work together to address the severe and growing shortage of affordable assisted living. It will include examples of innovative models, partnership opportunities, and current collaborations around advocacy and education that are influencing policy and regulatory change. A discussion of obstacles and challenges will also be included.



1.3 NJ Pioneers Innovative Strategy to Expand Access to Community-Based Palliative Care

Lori Feldstein, CEO & Executive Director, Goals of Care Coalition of New Jersey

NJ is home to 1.6M residents ages 65 years and older. This population is projected to grow and become more diverse. Unfortunately, many older adults, particularly those belonging to minoritized racial and ethnic groups, disproportionately suffer from serious illnesses. Diseases like cancer, stroke, dementia, or heart or lung disease carry a high risk of mortality and significantly impact daily functioning and quality of life. The majority of people with serious illnesses are not hospitalized or dying. They live with their conditions for many years and receive care in their communities. People with serious illnesses are considered high-need, high-cost patients, as they account for a substantial percentage of healthcare spending due to their heavy reliance on emergency services, hospitalizations, and skilled nursing facilities, which often results in care that conflicts with their values, preferences, and needs. Reflecting this shift in demographics and a corresponding increase in the prevalence of serious illness demands, Governor Murphy recently signed into law a requirement for Medicaid to cover community-based palliative care, a model of care that provides services to people with serious illnesses where they need it most—in their homes or community settings. At this session, attendees will learn about advocacy efforts resulting in this new law. Discussions will focus on how this policy shift addresses the needs of our most vulnerable residents with serious illnesses, facilitating aging in place. As one of the few states advancing palliative care benefits through legislation, NJ is pioneering innovative strategies to overcome barriers to high-quality, person-centered care.

1.4 Talking "Outside the Box": Using Innovative Communications to Motivate Aging Populations

Catherine L. O'Shea, APR; Counselor, Public Relations Society of America; Trustee, Hearing Loss Association of NJ, Cedar Crest "Hear Here!"

Being largely invisible, uninformed, and reluctant to speak up, NJ's hearing-challenged seniors mostly find their special needs ignored. Thus, NJ's deaf advocates must educate service providers AND deaf seniors to effect positive change. Nor can we assume that, for these seniors, "one message fits all." Cedar Crest (CC) is a senior living community located in northern New Jersey. Its "Hear Here" initiative involved installing audio-assist technology in key community gathering spaces on the property, such as the Interfaith Chapel and Performing Arts Center. Launching "Hear Here" at Cedar Crest (CC) required 6 months of speaking WITH target audiences to find messages and messengers to successfully change CC's culture. This presentation will cover changing our OWN outlook, as well, to find messages that help us meet our goals.

Due to an unexpected change in circumstances, Presentation 1.4 will no longer be offered. Those interested in learning about this work are welcome to contact the presenter directly at HearHereCCV@gmail.com. Thank you!



1.5 Tablets for Seniors: Bridging the Digital Divide

Stephanie Drag, Associate Vice President, Prevention, Children's Aid and Family Services; Donny Bellamy, Prevention Specialist, Children's Aid and Family Services; Rosemary Marchetto, Prevention Specialist, Children's Aid and Family Services

Achievements in medical science have brought about an era of increasing life spans and improved health and mobility for older adults, greatly expanding opportunities for people to live creative and productive lives well into their later years. However, many older adults, especially those who are economically disadvantaged, are feeling “left behind” by today’s technological advances. The Pew Research Center’s most recent data reveals that fewer than 3 in 5 people age 65 and older have home access to a computer with internet service. Older adults living in communities with high concentrations of poverty have significantly less access. Tablets for Seniors is a program that decreases social isolation, a large risk factor for substance misuse, while increasing wellness, social connectedness and digital literacy skills for older adults living at home and/or with limited access to technology/senior programming. Participants have access to a preloaded Birdsong tablet computer (on loan) with one-on-one training and ongoing technology support to help them build digital literacy skills. In addition, Tablets for Seniors offers a rich array of live and interactive virtual programming, including social and educational events.

1.6 Advancing Aging Services Through Activity Programming and Supportive Services in Long-Term Care and Senior Affordable Housing-Based Communities

Meagan Glaser, Vice President, LeadingAge NJ & DE; Emma Bender, Membership Associate, LeadingAge NJ & DE

The population of the U.S. is rapidly aging, and the caregiving workforce is steadily dwindling. Millions of older adults will continue to need quality care and services, and aging services providers need immediate support to expand the workforce. *New Jersey United for Older Adults*, a grant-funded project operated by LeadingAge NJ & DE (LANJDE), provides resources to an overburdened workforce while creating meaningful opportunities for elder residents to connect with their community. Together, we’re laying the foundation for positive and meaningful change in aging services. Through the project, LANJDE has supported eight new long-term care and senior affordable housing-based communities with a total population of 1,245 residents and members of the workforce. Based on resident priorities, we connected aging services providers to activity programming, and as a result, elders enjoyed community activities, including chair yoga, dance classes, musical performances, and pet therapy. We will also discuss additional innovative and professional tools and resources LANJDE offers to help strengthen the aging services infrastructure and improve quality of life for older adults. LANJDE’s work supports 150 primarily non-profit, mission-driven, senior care organizations through advocacy, education, and networking. Our members include skilled nursing, assisted living, affordable housing, life plan communities, adult day, PACE and ALP programs, hospice, and home-based services. Together with our partner, LeadingAge (national), we advance policies, promote practices and conduct research that supports, enables, and empowers people to live fully as they age. Learn about how our network works together to build an equitable and inclusive aging services sector with opportunities for all to thrive.



1.7 Café Connection - A Memory Cafe

Reva Farenback-Brateman MSW,CDP (she/her), Geriatric Case Manager and Community Educator, Jewish Family and Children's Service (JFCS) of Southern New Jersey; Wendy Lucas (she/her), MPT, Cafe Connection Participant/Care Partner and Volunteer

Just saying the word “dementia” often creates an atmosphere of fear, rejection, or worse. But if we live long enough, most of us will experience mild cognitive impairment or some type of dementia. This presentation will provide an overview of a memory café at the Jewish Family and Children's Service in Cherry Hill, NJ. The program started in 2016 based on observations that many JFCS clients who were living at home with memory loss were having trouble fully participating in regular programming for seniors and were facing other forms of social exclusion. The memory café concept is simple: bring people with brain change together with a care partner to socialize with others over coffee, and then engage in an interactive experience together. Activities include music, movement, craft projects, horticulture, film clips, drumming, reminiscing, cookie decorating, and more. Guest artists lead the programs and volunteers assist, acting as hosts, welcoming participants, seeing to their needs, chatting with them, and more. Although our community resource table has information related to dementia, that is one word that is not uttered at Café Connection. Our tagline is, “Leave the disease at the door and come enjoy a morning out together.” Beginning in Holland, there are now hundreds of memory cafés around the world. But sadly, New Jersey has very few. The presenter will reflect on how leading this program has been one of the most rewarding experiences in her long career and ways in which creating dementia-friendly communities is an imperative for all of us.

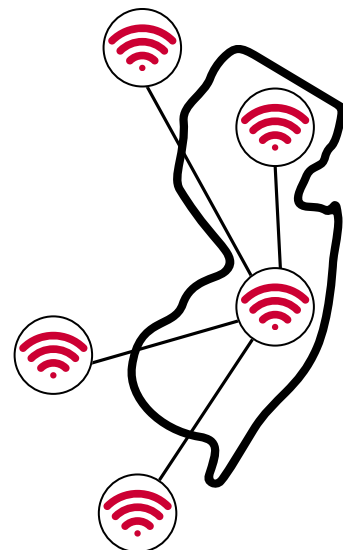
1.8 Advocacy in Action: New Program to Help NJ Become Retire Ready

Katie York, Associate State Director of Advocacy, AARP

People are 15 times more likely to save for retirement when they can do so at work. However, New Jersey has 1.7 million private sector workers who have no access to a retirement savings program through their employer. Nationally, half of all households are at risk of not being able to handle everyday expenses – like medicine, utilities and rent – in retirement. The average household has only \$2,500 saved for retirement. While Social Security is a critical piece of the puzzle, it is not enough to depend on. RetireReady NJ is a new public-private partnership that will now allow many hardworking New Jerseyans to have a retirement savings option at work that puts them in control of their futures. Workers can choose whether to participate and how much they want to contribute through an automatic payroll deduction. AARP has long advocated for expanding access to retirement savings to improve financial security. AARP advocated for RetireReady NJ, from the legislative process through implementation. This session will discuss the features of RetireReady NJ along with the story of how we got here through advocacy efforts.

PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

SESSION 2 | 10:20 - 10:50 AM



2.1 The Integrated Community Project: Increasing Community Access and Quality of Life for All

Kate Kelly, Associate Executive Director, Supportive Housing Association of NJ; Matthew von der Hayden, Township Administrator and Director of Water & Sewer Utility, Township of Stafford; Jackie Kates, Project Advisor to Age-Friendly Teaneck & Leadership Team Member, Integrated Community Project

Aging individuals find that as their abilities change and they encounter barriers, their cities and towns are not accessible and their quality of life changes. They desire community access that is better able to support them as they age. The Integrated Community Project (ICP) helps cities and towns in NJ increase the capacity of people with disabilities and barriers to become completely engaged in their communities. Individuals with a variety of lived experience, including those who are aging, lead this work. To date, 25 municipalities in nine New Jersey counties have completed the ICP Self-Assessment, which allows them to both recognize their successes around community integration and to identify areas where they would like to do more. Using the ICP Toolkit, municipal staff and elected officials learn about resources, best practices, and tools that they can use to make changes that increase access for everyone to the physical environment, cultural and research opportunities, civic engagement and participation, employment, communication, transportation, and housing. The ICP and its resources help make the case and illustrate that when community integration is improved for one population with barriers or a disability, other sometimes siloed populations also benefit. For example, expanding passive recreation opportunities can help both individuals who are aging and individuals with disabilities enjoy the outdoors and socialize with fellow residents. Attendees will hear from a NJ municipality and an ICP Leadership Team member about their work around inclusion for all residents and how participation in the ICP has supported that work.

2.2 All About ADUs

Christina Kata, NJ Policy Associate, Regional Plan Association

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), also known as mother-in-law suites, granny flats, backyard apartments, or casitas, are smaller, independent living units that are either attached to or detached from a single-family home. They create new housing options within the context of existing neighborhoods and present an unobtrusive, homeowner-driven approach to increasing housing supply. Older adults especially stand to benefit from ADUs. They create more affordable housing units and allow older adults to age in place by giving homeowners the ability to have a live-in caretaker or more income to pay expenses. NJ is on the cusp of passing a statewide ADU bill, and several municipalities have adopted their own ordinances. During this presentation, we will provide an overview of the current status of ADUs in NJ, what is next on the horizon, and how participants can bring ADUs to their towns.



2.3 Planning for Aging-Friendly Communities in NJ's State Development and Redevelopment Plan

Chris Sturm, Policy Director, Land Use, New Jersey Future; Sabrina Rodriguez-Vicenty, Advocacy and Government Affairs Manager, New Jersey Future

This session will describe recommendations from members of the Age-Friendly New Jersey Statewide Collaborative Policy Committee for the update to NJ's State Development and Redevelopment Plan, now underway. Planning for a healthy, vibrant, and prosperous NJ in 2050 means planning for communities that are great places to age since older people represent a large and steadily growing share of the state's population. Local officials and community members across NJ can create "Great Places to Age" by adopting land use and infrastructure planning strategies, such as by enhancing downtown, main street, or other activity centers so they are walkable and vibrant; providing more affordable and age-appropriate housing; improving transportation options for healthcare workers and adults ages 65 and older alike; providing nearby, connected green spaces and gathering spaces; and ensuring climate-safe, flood-safe communities. The update to the NJ Plan will serve as a guide for the state's future growth and re/development through 2050. This version should provide a vision for age-friendly communities and effective implementation strategies for all levels of government. It must strive for equitable outcomes for the state's diverse population of older adults and the healthcare workers who serve them. It should reflect the unique needs of different regions of the state (urban, suburban, and rural) and reform our today's fragmented land use decision-making structure. After all, age-friendly land use planning benefits all ages.

2.4 Low-Cost Strategies to Implement Research-Based Interventions to Improve Service Outcomes

Carla Winters, PhD, Director of Grants and Fundraising, Interfaith Caregivers of Greater Mercer County

Meeting the needs of an increasingly aging population has presented resource challenges to non-profit organizations as never seen before. We have a responsibility to spend funding awarded from any source (public or private) in the most effective manner possible to maximize the benefits of our services. Eldercare and its complexities is a trending topic of research in a variety of disciplines, placing the onus on practitioners to maintain familiarity with the latest findings and find ways to incorporate these recommendations into daily practice (and within budget). This session will share ways in which research has informed our Volunteer Caregiver program (Neighbors Helping Neighbors) and provide observations and lessons learned along the way.



2.5 **Shaping the Future: The Role of the Exploring Careers in Aging Internship**

EJ Vizzi, Director of Senior Programs, The Bright Side Family; Ellen Rand, Volunteer Curriculum Coordinator, Age-Friendly Teaneck

The numbers of professionals caring for and providing services for our aging population are declining, while at the same time, our culture clings stubbornly to outdated stereotypes and biases about the older adult population. In 2018, Age Friendly Teaneck decided to tackle these intertwined issues by starting a four-week paid summer internship for high school students: our Exploring Careers in Aging Internship. We had two goals in mind: to show students a sample of the wide variety of careers touching on elder care that awaited them; and to combat some of the misapprehensions about aging that they and their peers may have been harboring. The internship consists of a dynamic curriculum, real-world experience and one-on-one connections with professionals not only in health care, but also in such fields as technology, recreation, food service, housing, elder law, architecture, construction, and business management. It fosters intergenerational relationships by connecting interns with older adults across a variety of settings. Finally, it requires each intern to research and present a project - of their choosing - related to a specific issue in aging care. We have created a toolkit to assist other communities in developing and managing their own age-friendly internships. It answers such basic questions as: How to start a program? Will we need funding and if so, where might it come from? Who can our community partner with? How do we design the curriculum? We will walk through the steps we have taken so you, too, can do this in your community.

2.6 **Advocating for Equity: Expanding Financial Eligibility Criteria for NJ FamilyCare Programs Impacting Older Adults and People with Disabilities**

Hannah Diamond, Policy Advocate, Justice in Aging

In NJ, over 300,000 older adults and people with disabilities rely on NJ FamilyCare, the state's Medicaid program, for critical health coverage. In NJ, as well as most other states, older adults and people with disabilities are subject to more stringent income and asset limits to access the program than other populations. This presentation will highlight advocacy efforts aimed at expanding access to NJ FamilyCare for these populations through proposed increases to income and asset thresholds for NJ FamilyCare programs serving older adults and people with disabilities. These advocate-driven proposals seek to create parity and reduce coverage gaps across existing state Medicaid programs, enabling increased access to critical services that support older adults and people with disabilities to remain in the community.



2.7 Re-Imagining Programs and Services Through the LGBTQ+ Lens

Amy B. Simon, CEO Managing Partner, LGBT Senior Housing and Care; David Rosen, DBH, LCSW, LGBT, VP Training and Education, LGBT Senior Housing and Care

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ+) seniors are among the most vulnerable elder populations, especially when it comes to ensuring their access to LGBTQ+ affirming health care services and safe, welcoming housing and care opportunities. Due to having experienced decades of societal stigma, prejudice and fear, they are less likely to have current close family ties for support and are more likely to face institutionally embedded discrimination mechanisms in housing and care. They also face an array of other unique barriers that stand in the way of their enjoying a healthy and rewarding life as they continue to age. In this program, we will discuss how to innovate current programming to create affirming and welcoming environments for LGBTQ+ older adults. We will describe how our group partners with local and national LGBTQ+ and aging champions to develop and implement best-practice models in housing and services for LGBTQ+ older adults across diverse racial, cultural, religious, and economic backgrounds.

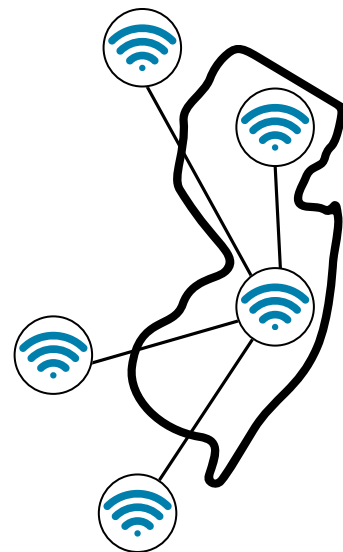
2.8 Building Community & Creating Change: The NJ Long-Term Care Ombudsman's Community Engagement Program

Gary Brown, Resident of a Nursing Home; Ray DiFrancesco, Resident of a Nursing Home; Eliz Speidel, Director of Community Engagement, New Jersey Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Residents of nursing homes and the NJ Long-Term Care Ombudsman Director of Community Engagement will discuss the Long-term Care Ombudsman's (LTCO) Community Engagement Program. When residents enter a long-term care facility, they often lose their community and voice. The Community Engagement team works with residents to build a sense of community within facilities and across the state making sure residents voices are heard and respected. The team also works with families across the state. The goal of Community Engagement is to support those who are most impacted to build community across long-term care facilities in NJ and ensure that their voices are centered in all the work that LTCO does, including identifying issues and creating change in long-term care.

PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

SESSION 3 | 10:50 - 11:20 AM



3.1 Nature: Accessible For All

Sean Kane Holland, Access Nature Disability Advocate, Pinelands Preservation Alliance; Carleton Montgomery, Executive Director, Pinelands Preservation Alliance

"Nature: Accessible For All" is a statewide campaign to engage people with disabilities, their families, and allies to make NJ's natural places accessible for everyone. Pinelands Preservation Alliance is facilitating this campaign and working with numerous public agencies, land trusts, and nonprofits. We will discuss the campaign's work to hold forums, evaluate and improve accessibility of trails and scenic locations across the state, promote accessible guided nature trips, and foster broad awareness that enjoying nature is both possible and good for you, regardless of one's situation.

3.2 Catalyzing Age-Friendly Community Change Through Creative Grantmaking

Renie Carniol, Executive Director, Grotta Fund for Older Adults; Julia Stoumbos, Program Director, Aging in Place, the Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation

Most NJ communities were not designed for an aging population. A collaborative grantmaking program was designed to change all of that! Representatives from two philanthropic organizations, inspired by what they heard from colleagues in other states about the growth of age-friendly communities, embarked on a new funding program together, focused on their geographic catchment areas in northern NJ. Taking to heart the recommendations and successful approaches promoted by leaders from other places, The Grotta Fund for Older Adults and The Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation created opportunities for professionals in aging to come together, brainstorm, survey their communities, compare notes, plan together, and 'suit up' to face the unknown. Coordinating with each other, they created a new grantee experience, and the funding opportunity gave rise to a cohort of community leaders. Multi-sector community development was not squarely in the wheelhouses of many of the individuals who stepped up as age-friendly champions, but through regular collaboration and learning opportunities, they have emerged as community leaders, empowered to guide and implement community change and now mentoring new communities. Partnerships with county and state government leaders has resulted in systems change at those levels, and grant funding also made it possible to follow the evolution of this movement by supporting our academic partners at the Rutgers University School of Social Work. Reflections shared back to community leaders from this research has propelled the movement forward and injected positive energy so that the movement is catching on across the state, spurring replication.



3.3 Why JFS Chose the Village Model Over Traditional Older Adult Services?

Tina Serota, JFS's Lynn Kramer Village by the Shore Community Specialist, Jewish Family Service of Atlantic and Cape May Counties

Hear why, after much consideration and debate, JFS moved from the traditional professional staff-based older adult services delivery model to the Village concept of neighbor helping neighbor. Learn how our Village is structured and services delivered. Our goal from conception has been to keep older adults aging well in their homes while remaining actively engaged in community life with supports, as needed, for as long as safely possible. We accomplish this through members ages 50 years and older, volunteers, neighborhood agency and business partnerships, and a vast array of services and social and educational programs and events. Services offered include, transportation, meal delivery, grocery shopping, friendly visits, phone checks, social and educational programs, access to local vetted partner networks of local businesses, restaurants and agencies, access to JFS Senior Counseling, access to JFS Food Pantry, care coordination, and volunteering. Members can choose what services to use and when. Also, volunteers build their own foundation for aging while extending their life expectancy and quality of life as they assist their neighbors and friends. Local businesses and agencies increase their revenues and goodwill while growing their business reach into the community. Hear how we have financially sustained our Village and the lessons learned over the past decade.

3.4 Social Connections: How We are Making an Impact in Southern New Jersey with Community Partners

Joanne Rosen, Chief Marketing & Public Affairs Officer, Samaritan; Erika Thomas, Director of Social Connections, Samaritan

Samaritan's Social Connections Department is a newly established service line developed to decrease the alarmingly high rates of social isolation and loneliness experienced amongst our older adult population. As a direct response to this increasing trend, our organization stepped into action. We initially targeted our palliative care patients and those receiving in-home physician care. Samaritan welcomed staff referrals based on scores from the UCLA loneliness scale as an initial assessment and began matching patients who were interested in participating in our Friendly Caller program with a trained volunteer. With the success of this program, we were inclined to take on a more innovative approach in hopes of providing a companion for those in need. This led to the birth of our Robotic Pet Companion program. This self-funded, innovative program has proven to be effective in improving the lives of those suffering with dementia and their caregivers, and we look forward to its continued growth. We also are working on a new initiative in Southern New Jersey to work across sectors, organizations, and communities to implement the national action guide of the Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness.



3.5 Navigating the Golden Years: Exploring Senior-Friendly Transportation Options

Megan O'Keefe, Executive Director, Caregiver Volunteers of Central Jersey

Navigating the Golden Years: Exploring Senior-Friendly Transportation Options delves into the crucial aspect of mobility for older adults. This presentation recognizes that maintaining independence and social engagement becomes increasingly challenging as individuals age, often due to limitations in transportation. Addressing this need is essential for enhancing the quality of life and overall well-being of seniors. The presentation will briefly outline the unique transportation challenges faced by seniors, including physical limitations, cognitive decline, and limited access to affordable and convenient transportation services. Next, this presentation will discuss the range of senior-friendly transportation options that our organization has explored as possible ways to address this challenge of later life transportation, such as specialized senior shuttle services, door-to-door transportation programs, ridesharing platforms with senior-focused features, and accessible public transportation initiatives. We will share our evaluation of the different benefits, limitations, and suitability of these programs for different senior populations. Specifically, we will discuss our decision to implement a ride-share approach called "Healthy Hop Transportation." This innovative transportation model aims to address transportation challenges for seniors by using a partnership with Uber to provide convenient and reliable transportation solutions for medical appointments. Moreover, the presentation will emphasize the significance of community engagement and collaboration in developing comprehensive transportation solutions for seniors. It will showcase how the "Healthy Hop Transportation" ride share program is a successful example of partnerships between government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private sector entities to improve senior mobility.

3.6 Empowering Communities: Using the Conversation of Your Life (COYL) Toolkit to Support Advance Care Planning for Your Residents

Katie Bisaha, Community Health and Policy Associate, New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute

Advance Care Planning (ACP) is a critical step for everyone to take but can be scary and confusing. This presentation will walk you through the Conversation of Your Life (COYL) Toolkit, which is designed for community leaders to run ACP programs in their communities. We will discuss the importance of ACP and its connection to overall well-being. We will delve into community engagement strategies, including considerations of cultural competence, as well as using films, books, and games to make ACP more accessible and understandable. We will share additional resources with definitions and step-by-step guidance to empower residents throughout NJ to discuss, document, and share their wishes for care.



3.7 LGBTQ+ Aging with Pride: A Group for Adults 50+

Reva Farenback-Brateman MSW,CDP (she/her), Geriatric Case Manager and Community Educator, JFCS of Southern New Jersey; Mitch Augarten (he/him), MBA, LGBTQ+ Aging with Pride Participant and Volunteer

Created six years ago, LGBTQ+ Aging with Pride was born out of the need to create a program for older folks who were isolated, alone, and looking for connection. Aging with Pride offers a welcoming and supportive community for adults ages 50 years and over who identify as LGBTQ+. Through monthly gatherings, JFCS has fostered a welcoming and inclusive environment where older adults are embraced, affirmed, and celebrated as their authentic selves! It is a place where they can connect, share experiences, and build lasting friendships. LGBTQ+ older adults experience the same challenges as other older adults, exacerbated by their sexual orientation and gender identity. Loneliness and isolation, health and financial concerns, caregiving responsibilities, the death of a partner, discrimination, and a lack of support systems are a few of the challenges our participants face. Aging with Pride offers information on community resources, lively discussions, a range of activities including films, speakers, small interest groups, and many opportunities to socialize. Members also plan and participate in community PRIDE events, and they are creating a Speaker's Bureau and an intergenerational program. A mission statement, created by group members themselves, states a shared desire to educate and engage the broader community and to advocate for the needs of older LGBTQ+ adults.

3.8 New Legal Strategies to Help Individuals Age in Their Communities

Mary Ciccone, Director of Policy, Disability Rights New Jersey

As they age, many people fear losing their independence alongside physical or mental decline. They want to remain in their own homes and in their communities where they have friendships and social support. Furthermore, the Covid-19 pandemic demonstrated that nursing homes are not ideal situations for many older adult individuals. As a result, many groups are advocating for legal reforms to assist older adults to remain in their homes. This presentation will focus on recent changes to NJ laws that increase access to home and community-based supports and services for individuals remaining in their homes as well as current advocacy on innovative legislative reforms. Current legislative proposals include expanding Medicaid for individuals aged 65 and older to be consistent with the Affordable Care Act's expanded Medicaid eligibility, and providing a caregiver support or relief such as a tax credit for caregiving expenses.

Recordings from the the InnovAGING NJ 2024
posted online at: go.rutgers.edu/Hub-Events-2024

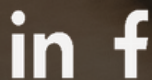


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