

NH Alliance for Healthy Aging Quarterly Meeting

September 14, 2016; 9:00-12:00

NH Audubon McLane Center

84 Silk Farm Road

Concord, NH

Meeting Summary

An Introduction to Diversity and Equity in NH

Presenters: Nathalie Ahyi and Melina Hill Walker (slides 3 – 24)

The presentation commenced with a group activity where AHA members each identified three words that described their cultural identity. Utilizing data, the presentation then discussed the changing landscape of diversity in NH. Nathalie and Melina discussed how health and wellbeing are impacted by specific social, cultural, and community factors, which could result in health disparities and barriers for some communities. The presenters stated that solving health disparities could lead to a healthier and wealthier state and provided solutions and steps to action for AHA members.

Bright Spots:

Tri-State Learning Collaborative on Aging

Presenter: Jess Maurer (slides 25 - 33)

Jess provided a brief overview of the Tri-State Learning Collaborative on Aging (TSLCA), a multi-state effort focused on fostering collaborative, community-based strategies and systems that support the needs of older adults across Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. TSLCA is hosting “Cross Border Conversations on Caregiving” which will be held in each state on the border of another state to discuss informal, family caregiving. The events will consist of a panel, and a “World Café” model that includes small group table conversations in several rounds that focus on specific questions. A report will be disseminated after the events. Visit the TSLCA website at: <http://agefriendly.community/>.

Legislative Update

Presenter: Doug McNutt (slide 34)

Doug discussed the upcoming legislative year stating that this is a general election year and will have a lot of turnover in the senate and house, and will have a new Governor. Doug reiterated that the main item this session is the budget, because the budget drives services and policy. Doug recommended that AHA members introduce themselves to your state representative to help develop legislative champions on aging issues. There was discussion of the status of specific bills, the creation of a Governor’s Commission on aging and a Senior’s Cabinet, as well as the need to focus on Medicaid rates.

Solutions Journalism

Presenters: Karen Ager and Gretchen Grosky (slide 35)

Karen began by discussing solutions journalism as a practice, stating that it is a type of investigative reporting that focuses on the responses to social issues in addition to reporting on the problems themselves. Karen gave an overview of the Endowment for Health's process of underwriting a solutions journalist at the Union Leader. Gretchen discussed her role as a solutions journalist, and stated she welcomes issues and information. Her story list in the near future includes: PACE and the village network, the timing of her articles is not yet determined but will be soon. Gretchen's articles from the Union Leader can be found here: <http://www.unionleader.com/section/NEWS2001>

Strategic group updates

Overview

Presenter: Alison Rataj (slide 36 - 37)

Alison provided an update on the 8 strategic group areas, indicating that most groups have met twice. The groups have reviewed action plans from 2015 and are developing a 1 – 2 year work plan with tangible outcomes, concrete action steps, and steps for measuring.

Caregiving Group Update

Presenter: Mark Frank (slides 38 – 43: see slides for more detail)

Mark gave an overview of the two meetings the Caregiving group has held. The group plans to implement two strategies: an employer case model of best practices for supporting caregivers and the creation/adoption of five questions to help caregivers self-identify. Doug McNutt stated that Lincoln Financial has a strong caregiving program for their employees. Nancy Rollins discussed the Paid Family Medical Leave act, and that a task force is developing, she is a contact.

Advocacy

Presenters: Brooke Holton, Kelly Laflamme, and Laura Davie (no slides)

Brooke gave an overview of the meetings that the Advocacy group has had to date. She discussed that the group decided on goals, for the short term the group is to identify a policy agenda and the long-term is to build an advocacy infrastructure. One of the group's highest priorities is creating either a Governor created commission or a legislative commission on aging. Kelly then discussed a funding opportunity through the Endowment for Health to help build greater capacity for advocacy in NH. The advocacy group will be applying for this utilizing the NH Cares communication model. Laura then discussed that the Center on Aging and Community Living was invited to submit an application to the Tufts Foundation. The application will highlight three main goals: develop the Senior Leadership Advocacy network, support the establishment and education of a Commission on Aging, and hold a summit(s) on aging.

Measurement Group

Presenter: Martha Tecca (no slides)

Martha invited AHA members to join the measurement committee, which encompasses measuring the work of the overall Alliance as well as the work of the eight strategic groups.