CACL Distributes and Trains on Provider Communication Tool

There is a plethora of information and tools to help us plan for our financial and medical future as we age, but little assistance to help us identify our personal preferences and choices. Informal facts about our preferences can aid our future caregivers in developing an understanding about our unique, individual goals regarding care and the way we choose to live. To further this aim, CACL developed the Community Living Guide in partnership with the NH DHHS Aging and Disability Resource Center ServiceLink Resource Center program. The Guide’s purpose is “To communicate important information about me… to people who might provide me with support and services.” The Guide is for a person and/or their caregiver(s) to use when communicating with personal care providers, hospital staff, community providers and others about how the person prefers to be cared for, their personal preferences for living, activities they enjoy and so forth. Used as a framework to drive the conversation around choice and preference, The Guide is an important part of any futures planning toolkit.

In addition to providing The Guide, CACL staff has been enlisted to deliver trainings around how to use it, and are helping people to understand why informal support planning is crucial to high quality, individualized care. The Guide has been presented to the Concord Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership Series students, to members of the Family First Seniors luncheon group, and others.

CACL Social Work Intern Reflects on Internship

CACL has recently collaborated with the UNH School of Social Work to create a unique internship site for second year Master’s level students focusing on macro level social work. Alison Rataj recently finished her internship at CACL for the 2013-2014 school year, and discusses her internship experience. “CACL gave me the opportunity to explore the possibility of community, administrative and policy
practice in a safe and supportive environment. I had the chance to work on various projects including: researching and presenting for a long-term care legislative subcommittee; creating, analyzing and reporting on a survey for the Senior Leadership Series. I also had the pleasure of working with wonderful staff, colleagues, partners and affiliates who are empathetic, encouraging and supportive. As I look toward the future, I cannot thank CACL enough for not only the exposure to specific programs and tasks, but to also the formation of my identity as a professional social worker. I attribute much of my work force preparedness to CACL staff and appreciate their guidance and support on my educational journey toward becoming a skilled member of the profession. This experience not only solidified my passion for social work, but also illuminated my true interest area of research, evaluation and policy. My time at CACL was truly incredible, and I cannot emphasize enough what a phenomenal placement CACL is for MSW students.”

**New Hampshire Care Transitions BOOST Model is National News**

Lakes Region General Hospital (LRGH) and the Belknap County ServiceLink Aging and Disability Resource Center partnered to improve care and reduce hospital readmission rates by implementing the “Better Outcomes for Older Adults through Safe Transitions” care transitions model. Recently the program was featured in a national video for educating physicians, nurses, pharmacists and other hospital staff about collaboration with community partners to reduce hospital readmissions. This is part of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid’s Partnership for Patients Education Series. LRGH and ServiceLink have been running a successful program since 2009. [Watch the video to learn more.](#)

**CACL Co-Director Receives NHPHA Presidential Achievement Award**

Laura Davie, co-director of CACL, served as the vice president of the New Hampshire Public Health Association (NHPHA) from 2012-2014. Laura was recognized for her many years of service to the NHPHA, coupled with her dedication to her work in the long term care and aging field.

As an active member of the NHPHA Policy Committee, NHPHA a policy position on NH’s Aging Population and Public Health. These statements are designed to inform the public and policy makers of the important issues and NHPHA encourages advocates to use the policy statements in their efforts. [Read about the policy statement here.](#)
Items of Interest

- A new publication, *Preventing Alzheimer's Disease: What Do We Know?*, from the National Institute on Aging outlines current research findings, including preventative measures. Read more.
- The CDC recently released a report, *Long-Term Care Services in the United States: 2013 Overview*, containing initial results from the National Study of Long-Term Care Providers (NSLTCP). The findings in this study deliver a national picture of providers and users of long-term care services in the United States. Read more.
- Visit AARP’s State Data center to find a wide range of state-specific data related to Americans aged 50 and over.

Upcoming Events & Educational Opportunities

- *Asthma Care: From the Medical Home, to the Community, and Back* is hosted by the Southern New Hampshire Area Health Education Center on May 19, 2014. Register Here.
- *NH Conference on Aging* will be held on May 22, 2014. Register Here.
- *Dementia and Sexuality in Long-Term Care* presented on May 29, 2014 by the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Center on Aging. Register Here.
- *Sex, What’s Age Got to Do With It?* hosted on June 3, 2014 by the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Center on Aging. Register Here.
- *2014 Advocate NH Conference Advocacy: Learn it! Live it! Love it!* hosted by the Institute on Disability on June 28th 2014. Register Here.