CACL Releases Policy Brief on Aging and the Health Care System

CACL released New Hampshire’s Long Term Services and Supports System: Recommendations for Meeting the Needs of an Aging Population, which outlines key outcomes developed through a series of convening meetings which analyzed the future of New Hampshire’s long term care system. The meetings; coupled with an analysis done by the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies in two reports, New Hampshire’s Silver Tsunami: Aging and the Health Care System and Aging and the Public Long Term Care System, informed the conclusions and recommendations. Some of the recommendations include: act now in order to sustain the current LTSS system; adopt person-centered approaches to planning and delivering LTSS; recognize family caregivers as a core component of the system; establish in statute a Long Term Services and Supports Commission; and develop a strong statewide advocacy network.

CACL Presents Video on Person Centered Thinking

CACL is committed to promoting person-centered options for living and aging in our communities and provides training on person-centered planning. CACL recently produced a creative and informative 6 minute person-centered planning video. The video provides a quick introduction to person-centered planning through a review of the history, an overview of the philosophy and some scenarios of person-centered planning. Watch Now!

Multiple Legislative Initiatives Define and Promote Palliative Care in NH

Despite palliative care’s growth nationally over the last decade it is still often misunderstood and some may say underutilized. Senate Bill 17, introduced in 2013, established a commission in NH to study palliative care and associated quality of life initiatives. Since palliative care often means different things to different people, the early work of the commission began with defining palliative care, which is often confused with care for terminally ill patients.

Palliative care provides symptom, pain and stress relief to an individual and family. It is appropriate at any age, at any point in a serious illness and can be provided along with curative treatment. The goal of palliative care is to improve quality of life for the individual and their family through a multidisciplinary team approach designed to provide another layer of support to families coping with serious illness regardless of the diagnosis.

Preliminary reports by the commission identify barriers to utilization
applied research that advances sustainable, person-centered options for aging and community living.

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of palliative care, including, physician discomfort regarding introducing the topic to families. Senate Bill 256, a bill requiring health care facilities to implement a process to inform patients about palliative care addresses this issue by making the establishment of a process to inform patients a requirement of licensure. Senate Bill 259-FN-A, an act establishing a palliative care center for health care consumers and providers, addresses both provider perceptions around palliative care and the need to educate consumers and providers regarding palliative care.

Greg Burdwood to Coordinate Efforts to Implement Mental Health Settlement Agreement
Greg Burdwood will soon leave his position as the NH Community Passport program’s behavioral health transition coordinator to help the NH Department of Health and Human Services implement a historic Settlement Agreement that will enhance community-based services for people who live with a severe mental illness.

In the 1980s, New Hampshire was a recognized national leader in providing community-based services for people who live with a severe mental illness, but with a steady loss of funding over more than two decades, the availability of fewer supports and services gradually reversed the hard-won gains of the 1970s and 1980s. The result was an increase in the number of people being placed in institutional settings after many successful years of living in their home communities.

With a goal of hastening a restoration of community-based services, a class-action lawsuit was filed by the U.S. Department of Justice and private plaintiff organizations against the State of New Hampshire, citing violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A settlement was finalized on February 12, 2014 which stipulates a range of community-based services are to be expanded and enhanced.

Greg will work with many stakeholder groups to coordinate efforts to implement the stipulations of the Settlement Agreement. He brings much experience to the new role, including his work in community mental health, his service as a board member of Community Partners, his experience as a legislator, and a 33-year career that has been dedicated to helping people lead healthy, independent lives in their communities. CACL wishes him well as he transitions into his new position.

Items of Interest

- The AARP released a report, Ready, Set, Go! The Readiness Review Process for Care Coordination and Provider Network Adequacy in Five States, which focuses on care coordination and the importance of states ensuring that managed care organizations are ready to deliver high quality coordination before enrolling vulnerable consumers.

- The National Institute on Aging’s 2012-2013 Alzheimer’s Research Progress Report highlights significant research findings for projects funded in 2012 and the first half of 2013.

- Honor Flight New England is a program that honors veterans, specifically WWII, Korean and Vietnam veterans, by providing them with the opportunity to visit Washington D.C. and reflect at their memorials at no cost to the veteran. Each veteran is paired with a guardian who accompanies them to Washington D.C. to visit monuments. Applications are processed year round.
Upcoming Events & Educational Opportunities

- CACL brings you *Navigating Choice and Change in Later Life*, March 14, 2014. [Register Here](#)
- Southern New Hampshire AHEC hosts *New Hampshire’s Comprehensive Cancer Collaboration’s 9th Annual Conference* on Thursday, March 27th, 2014. [Register Here](#)
- The New Hampshire Senior Leadership Program, hosted by AARP, the Dartmouth Centers for Health and Aging, and CACL, will hold the first session for the 2014 class on April 10th, 2014. [Learn more](#)
- Southern New Hampshire AHEC hosts *Diabetes Today 2014: The INs and OUTs of Diabetes Management* on Friday, April 11, 2014. [Register Here](#)
- Clinical Controversies and Challenges in Geriatric Mental Health; a monthly program offered on the first Wednesday of every month by the Northern New England Geriatric Education Center. [Learn More](#)
- Advancing Competency for Geriatric Care in Rural Northern New England presents, *Sexuality and Dementia* on May 29th in West Lebanon, NH. [Save the date!](#)