

Aging with Connection and Purpose Workgroup

Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2020
Time: 9:00-11:00am
Meeting Leader(s): Caleb Gilbert
Location: Call-in Only

Participants: Danielle Reichert, VA; Marianne Jackson, Gibson Center; Martha McLeod, AHA/New Futures; Heather Phillips, Memorial Hospital; Caleb Gilbert, C3PH

Notes

Carroll County program/initiative updates

- **MWV Age-Friendly Community:**
Workgroup work continues behind the scene, in the face of COVID-19. Building of the Senior Resource Display (for the Conway Public Library) is still underway. Focusing on what can they get done working from home – exploring opportunities for streamlining the vetting process for volunteers (universal background checks, etc.), broadband issues. Trying to “use this moment as a mechanism.” Look to remove issues related to barriers vs money.
- **Gibson Center:**
Closed to all programming and congregate meals. Meals on wheels continues and curbside pickup is available. Thrift store is closed, transportation reserved only for medically necessary. Social isolation may become exacerbated. Discussed using the Good Morning program as a way to increase contact – Heather has a flyer and will circulate.
- **MWV Adult Day Center**
Closed yesterday (3/17) until further notice. All NH Long Term Care Facilities are restricting visitors as well.
- **Community Fall Prevention and Diabetes Programs:**
Community Fall Prevention classes cancelled. Diabetes education programming through Memorial Hospital has been transitioned to virtual classes/call. Future classes cancelled for now.
- **Advanced Care Planning Programs:**
Importance of ACP highlighted now, in situations like this. How can we bring this back to the public eye? Conversation project & other national resources. Small group meeting was held to begin looking into inconsistencies related to Advance Directives (lack of consistency in HC facilities honoring ADs, different HC systems using different forms and not honoring Ads on file, etc.). Using a real-world experience to help untangle this – send any stories about real-life experiences related to Ads.

- **Eldercare Workforce Issues:**

New Futures is holding a meeting for policy item and will discuss this issue. Elder Rights Coalition discusses issues related to COVID-19: protecting residents through screening of workforce working in LTCs. Schools closures are expanding contacts for staff at home. Homecare and meals on wheels and possible exposure. Hearing about retired professionals re-entering the workforce in other areas of the country. Increased opportunities volunteer (screened) opportunities.

- **Housing:**

Governor Sununu's executive order (temporary hold on evictions and utility shut-offs). See the Executive Orders here: <https://www.governor.nh.gov/news-media/press-2020/20200317-emergency-orders.htm>. MWV Homeshare will undergo advertising reboot, but is paused for now due to COVID-19.

- **ServiceLink of Carroll County:**

Gibson Center will help prepare folks for Open Enrollment. Helping to cut-down the workload for Karen at ServiceLink. Dawn's update:

We, like many other agencies are no longer accepting walk ins, no hv, no comm. meetings or in office meetings, etc. So far, we are working in the office but only through telephone/email access. We have already received calls as of yesterday and today for folks struggling because they are not working due to this challenging time. We have been working with partners who are interested in helping out with Open Enrollment, 2020. We are currently fully staffed (which is nice) and I will be taking over all of Carissa's workload along with my own for the next 12 weeks (Maternity Leave).

State and Regional program/initiative updates:

- **NHLA/AHA Advocacy:**

Policy issues that are being highlighted as a result of COVID-19. Martha will take policy ideas from Marianne to a call New Futures is holding this afternoon: e.g. Meals on Wheels funding, broadband access, telemedicine, family leave etc. Heather Carroll was hired by NHLA to work on AHA items. Legislature not doing any work until April 10th. Exploitation of Adults bill: need calls if it goes to governor, but Martha is going to doublecheck. Be on the lookout for info from Martha. Assessing where the situation is. DHHS Commissioner Lori Shibinette is forming LTC Panel – Martha will look for information on this. Commission on Aging meeting canceled this month, exploring remote options. Marianne and Martha attended Framework Training on Aging, trained as facilitators (Marianne & Martha). Will explore ways to bring this information to community partners.

- **COVID-19 Information:**

NH DHHS COVID-19 website: <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/>

US CDC COVID-19 website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>

SFY 2020 Meeting Schedule: 3rd Wednesdays of each quarter from 9-11am at TCCAP in Tamworth: Sep. 18th, Dec. 18th, Mar. 18th, June 17th.

Upcoming Events: visit our website under “Save the Date” for all upcoming events:

<http://www.c3ph.org/aging-with-connection-and-purpose>