

Healthy Aging Workgroup

Date: Wednesday, December 15, 2021
Time: 9:00-11

Notes

In Attendance:

Marianne Jackson, Sandy Ruka, Martha McLeod, Sue Ruka, Rebecca Hewson

Carroll County program/initiative updates

Visiting Nurse Home Care & Hospice: Hospice and palliative care continues to see growth. Remaining busy throughout the pandemic.

Gibson Center for Senior Services: Working with Freedom Resource Coordinator, Renee Wheaton, to create a program that can help folks access and utilize USDA Rural Development (504 Home Repair Program) funds to make needed home safety repairs (up to \$7500 for those who qualify). A healthy home assessment will be conducted too. For those who are not financially eligible for USDA Program – they can pay the contractor for services. Gibson has also identified a contractor to complete the work.

Memorial Hospital: Working ongoing related to Community Health Needs Assessment is ongoing. Hospital is really being taxed by COVID – roughly 50% of hospital census is COVID related. High rates of unvaccinated. Held virtual community engagement forum virtually in November – Social Determinants of Health, Access to Care, Mental Health, & Substance UD were the top 4 identified priorities.

Mineral Springs: Rebecca Hewson is the new Director of Social Services for Mineral Springs: rebecca.hewson@genesishcc.com. Short staffed, still seeing the impacts of COVID on operations. Desperately need nurse!

Dementia Capable Community Grant (ACL): Jennifer Griess is working to facilitate and coordinate training activities. REACH virtual caregiver support program – focuses on the needs of the caregiver and focuses on their wellbeing. Four initial sessions with the opportunity to extend. Jill Reynolds, Andrea Walsh, Andrea Haggerty all trained as facilitators. Promotional materials will be forthcoming. Community Education: General Community – dementia virtual tour. This training will take place in January – targeting a start after January. 2 more people taking Opening Minds through Art w/ ADC. Art as a way to express oneself – Gibson will be utilizing this program as well. Early Id – Cog Impair and Dementia. Working with primary care and ADC to help families when early diagnosis has been made.

MWV Age Friendly Community: The community resource guide has been updated! See it here <https://www.gibsoncenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/resource-guide-10-06-21.pdf>. There have

been some updates to state regulations regarding Advance Directives. Marianne met with NH Foundation for Healthy Communities. Looking for ways to increase the number of trainers who can train providers and community members on Advance Directives.

National Library of Medicine Grant: Joint endeavor between Conway Public Library, Gibson Center, and C3PH. This grant will focus on expanding the digital and health literacy of the community. Older Adults are one of the target audiences. There will be a four-part speaker series related to topics such as: understanding clinical health information, telehealth, disease epidemiology, and the All of Us program to recruit individuals to participate in health research. There will also be an increase in tablets and there will be “privacy booths” located at CPL and Gibson Center.

State and Regional program/initiative updates:

- NHLA/AHA Advocacy

Choices for Independence Waiver is being resubmitted. Public hearings were held and revised waiver will be available to the public soon. Hoping to increase home repair allowance under CFI. Statewide input and advocacy has helped to shape this waiver.

CFI Audit – this has been postponed indefinitely until CFI lawsuit is settled. AHA and New Futures is advocating for audit to take place, as there are concerns about the program not meeting some federal requirement.

New Futures: Remote Access to Legislature for Citizens – there is a petition circulating. Also tracking vaccine bills (over 30) that could have an impact on public health in NH.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 9, 2021, 9 to 10:30am