

o4a Annual Conference 2021

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Engaging our Community Engaging our Agency

Presenters:

Regina A. Russell, MPH, RN, BSN
Performance Management Lead/Director, Plan4Home

Tina Gaston, MBA
Director of Nutrition and Wellness Education and Outreach



Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As part of the Unification Coalition of YWCA of Northwest Ohio, AOoA staff contributed to the work in the research and development of a comprehensive document called the Toledo Black Agenda which addresses Six Critical Pillars Vital to the Success and Equality of the Black Community, including:

- healthcare delivery systems
- education
- housing
- food
- economic
- environmental
- criminal justice
- political systems



Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Recently, to raise awareness in the community of the Impact Of Racial Inequalities among Older Adults, AOoA staff conducted lunch and learn webinar that addressed their 3 biggest inequalities:

- poverty
- affordable housing
- health disparities



Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Ohio Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights conducted a study on civil rights and equity in the delivery of medical and public services during the COVID-19 pandemic in Ohio. AOoA staff contributed research and testimony, as well as, presented via videoconference and made recommendations for addressing related civil rights concerns.



Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI)

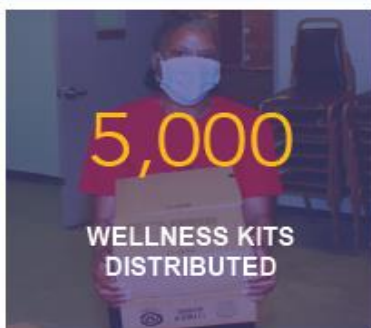
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

AOoA staff participates on the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative Project Steering Committee and is responsible for helping set core goals and strategies, perform technical review, help solve challenges, help drive community engagement outreach, make recommendations for early action projects and action activities, help implement the plan!



COMMUNITY IMPACT

More than 40,000 older adults, family caregivers and younger persons with disabilities were served by the Area Office on Aging (AOoA) and its provider organizations last year. That number is just the beginning of understanding the impact of the AOoA.



Back to the Basics...

The last year started with us getting back to the basics and ended with us helping older adults with getting back to living.

Early in the pandemic, our primary focus was on getting back to the basics by making sure the basic needs of older adults were being met. Making sure older adults were able to get meals, groceries, and socialization that we know are important to the well-being and health of older adults in new and innovative ways were our initial focus.

The year has concluded with us helping older adults, family caregivers, and younger persons with disabilities get back to living by connecting them with the programs, services, and activities they enjoyed pre-pandemic in a safe way.

We truly appreciate all your partnership through these challenging times. Together, we are emerging stronger and more committed than ever to helping older adults live long, quality, independent lives.

Billie Johnson
President/CEO

Bill Harris
Board Chairman



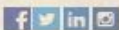


Dr. Anita Lewis-Sewell
A Renewed Mind

I WANT YOU TO GET VACCINATED

The AOoA is assisting the TLC Health Department with helping those age 60+ get vaccinated.

419-382-0624 or AreaOfficeOnAging.com



VACCINE
OUTREACH
EDUCATION
AND
SCHEDULING



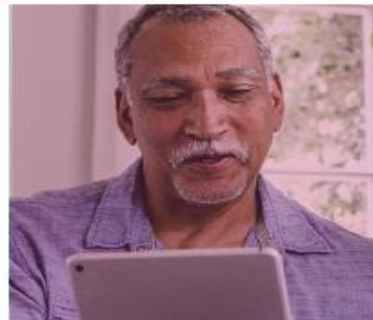
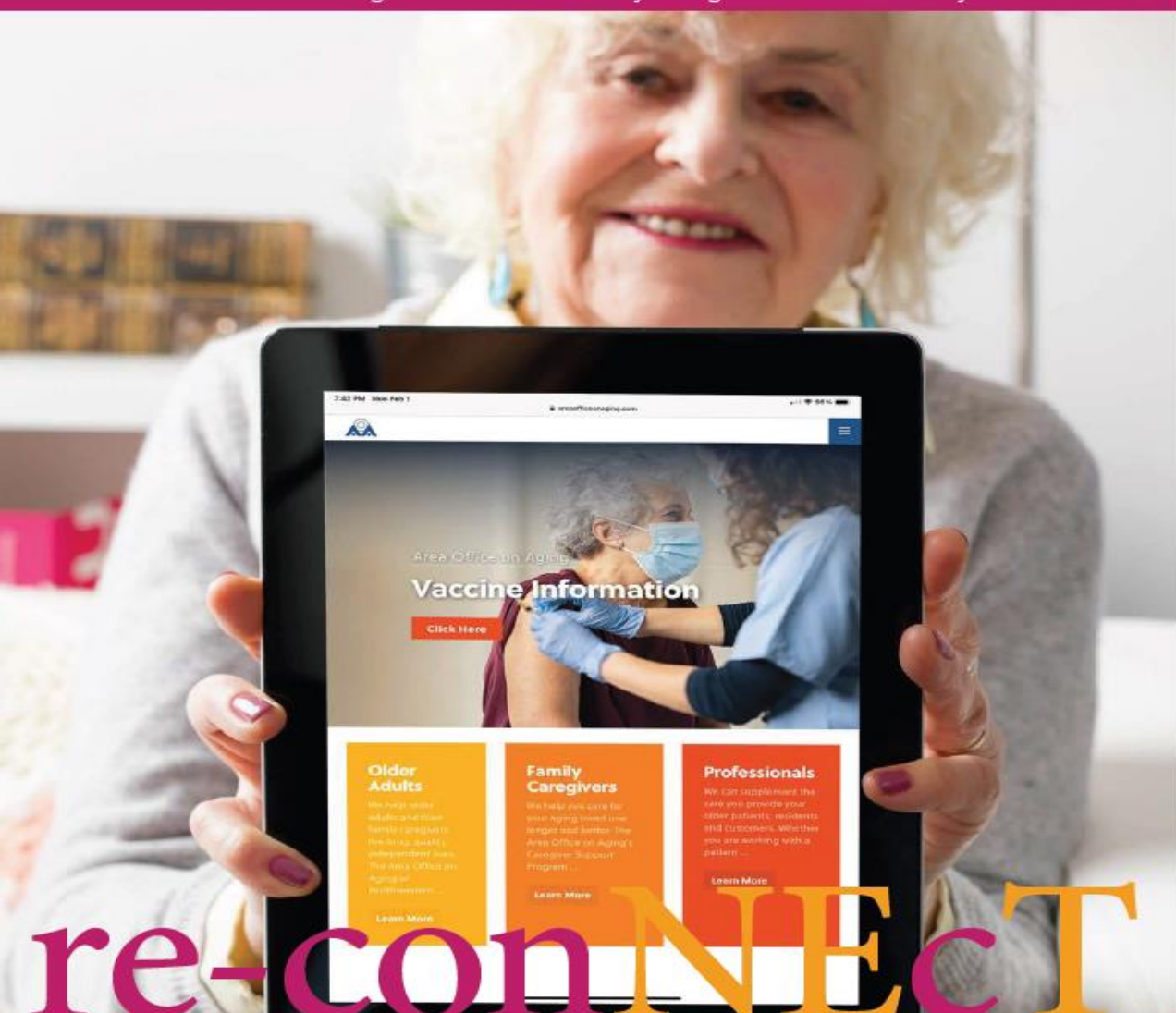
The AOoA developed a vaccine outreach campaign that included posters, flyers, billboards, and commercials of local doctors encouraging older adults to get vaccinated. One of these doctors was Dr. Anita Sewell who said, "For me, this is very personal. My 49-year-old daughter who was vaccine hesitant just died from COVID. In her final days in the hospital when she couldn't speak due to having difficulty breathing, she texted her 18-year-old son telling him she wanted him to get vaccinated. I want to honor my daughter's life by encouraging others who are hesitant to get vaccinated."

In partnership with the Ohio National Guard at 38 vaccine clinics at senior housing locations, the AOoA helped over 1,400 older adults get



2021 Virtual Guide

AOoA Connects Those Age 60+ and Their Family Caregivers with Community Resources



Before the pandemic, one of every five older adults reported being lonely, and the pandemic exacerbated this problem. Older adults and family caregivers who had not yet crossed the “digital divide” weren’t able to socialize electronically with the community via such platforms as Zoom, FaceTime and social media. The AOoA distributed tablets to 350 older adults, family caregivers and grandparents and relatives raising children, along with six months of unlimited data and six months of unlimited technology education. They were also offered technical support that helped them get comfortable with technology, reducing loneliness and caregiver stress. Rosalind Huggins, who raises six grandchildren, said, “The tablet has been fantastic to do virtual doctor’s appointments and connect with others on social media.”

“The tablet has been fantastic in being able to do virtual doctor’s appointments and connect with others on social media.”

— Rosalind Huggins

re-connect

...with a network of resources!



Neighbors Calling Neighbors

Last year, volunteers made over 26,000 friendly visiting calls to older northwest Ohioans.

Volunteers age 55+ have played a critical role in combating loneliness among older northwest Ohioans. Last year, volunteers made over 26,000 friendly visiting calls to older northwest Ohioans. Ohio's Medicaid Managed Care Plans contracted with the AOoA to provide assistance in developing friendly visiting call program for their members statewide. Molina HealthCare is still contacting with the AOoA for further development of this program with its members statewide.



AIR PURIFIER

The AOoA received a \$158,000 HVAC grant to help improve the air quality of older adults who were concerned about getting the Coronavirus when home health aides, family caregivers, grandchildren, or others came into the home. In addition to doing furnace repairs for older adults to improve the filtration and air quality, the AOoA purchased 286 High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) purifiers and had them delivered to older adults who had these concerns. Diane Gordon said, "I had been having breathing problems and had been in and out of the hospital. Once I received the air purifier, my breathing problems went away and now I feel healthy and happy."



"I had been having breathing problems and had been in and out of the hospital. Once I received the air purifier, my breathing problems went away and now I feel healthy and happy."
— Diane Gordon



Home Delivered Meals

"At age 99, it's difficult for me to get out. The home-delivered meals are a big help to me."

— Justine Dyer

The AOoA and its meal providers stepped up to provide over 1.3 million meals over the last year, making this the most home-delivered meals that have ever been provided in a year. This was key in making sure nutritional needs of older adults were being met. Justine Dyer said, "At age 99, it's difficult for me to get out. The home-delivered meals are a big help to me."



The AOoA provided over 141,000 grab-and-go meals over the last year. This includes culturally appropriate meals that were provided in partnership with senior centers and various local restaurants. One such partnership is between the J. Frank Troy Senior Center in central city Toledo and the soul food restaurant J'Mae's Home Cooking. There are 125 older adults who receive grab-and-go meals at this center three days a week.



The AOoA provided over 141,000 grab-and-go meals over the last year.





Food Assistance

"The Area Office on Aging helped me get signed up to receive over \$100 a month in free groceries. I am very grateful for this help as it relieves me of a lot of stress knowing that I can get the food I need while still being able to pay my other bills."

— Raymond Beasley

Senior hunger is a hidden, but real problem in northwest Ohio with many older adults struggling to get enough food. Yet, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which is formerly known as food stamps, still has a stigma associated with it that keeps many older adults from getting the food assistance for which they are eligible and could benefit. The Area Office on Aging received a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture to help get the word out about this program and to help older adults get enrolled in this program.



PASSPORT AND CAREGIVER SUPPORT

The AOoA provided case management services to over 3,000 individuals making sure they received the home care services to meet their needs through the PASSPORT, MyCare Ohio, Assisted Living Waiver, Ohio Home Care Waiver, Specialized Recovery Services, and Plan4Home programs.

Caring for an aging loved one can be stressful. With the average family caregiver spending over 20 hours a week providing unpaid care, often times while trying to juggle a full-time job, the emotional stress is significant. There is physical stress from having to lift a loved one in and out of bed. With the average family caregiver paying \$5,000/year on the care of their aging loved one, they often experience financial stress. The AOoA supports these family caregivers so they know they don't have to shoulder all this themselves, so they can care better and longer for their aging loved one than they otherwise would be able to do on their own.



"Having my case manager arrange for the home health aide to help with laundry, dishes, and cleaning has played a big part in me being able to stay right here in my own home where I want to be."

— Laura Wilson





Adult Daycare

"The Area Office on Aging and MemoryLane Care Services have been a godsend for me. If MemoryLane would have stayed closed, I would have to quit my job. For others, a job is a career. For the people at MemoryLane, their job is a passion, and it shows in everything they do."

— Denise Saxon

Adult day care is an essential service for the family caregivers who depend on this service for their aging loved one while they go to work, run errands, or do things they enjoy to reduce stress and reduce the chance of experiencing caregiver burnout. MemoryLane Care Services blazed the trail becoming one of the first adult day centers in Ohio to re-open providing in-center services. Family Caregiver Denise Saxon said, "The Area Office on Aging and MemoryLane Care Services have been a godsend for me. If MemoryLane would have stayed closed, I would have to quit my job. For some people, a job is just a job. For others, a job is a career. For the people at MemoryLane, their job is a passion, and it shows in everything they do."



KINSHIP NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

Over 7,600 older northwest Ohioans are responsible for the care of their grandchildren according to the Census. Often times, grandparents step up to raise their grandchildren to keep their grandchildren from going into the Foster Care System. One challenge with that grandparents who are living on a fixed income sometimes face is being able to afford both food for themselves as well as for their grandchildren. Grandparents are more than twice as likely to be food insecure than older adults who are not raising grandchildren, according to the report "The State of Senior Hunger in America." The AOOA's Kinship Navigator Program provided 167 Kinship families with emergency home-delivered meals for seven months and submitted over 400 referrals for families to the SeaGate Food Bank's program.



"The Kinship Navigator Program helped me purchase bunk beds for the boys, meals, and a tablet which I used to learn Spanish. The Kinship Program also helped me with resources after losing everything in a house fire recently that was caused when a neighbor's house caught fire."

— Tina Boyd



