Dignity for All: Ensuring Economic Security as America Ages

A Senior Poverty Forum

November 15, 2016
Panel 2: Providing Critical Services for Low-Income Seniors

Moderator: Jennifer Goldberg, Justice in Aging
Justice in Aging - Dignity for All
November 2016
Presented by Corinne Jan

Vulnerable
But Vibrant
Profile

- Multiple chronic conditions
- Polypharmacy
- Clinical depression/Mental Health
- Dementia
- Living alone/isolation
- History of falls
- Culture and language barriers
- Immigration status
- Family / caregiver
- Low income
Barriers to Access

- Health Literacy
- Discrimination
- Isolation
- Functional Limitations
- Disconnected system
- Poorer health
- Policy
- Social stigma
- Immigration status
Government safety net
Community Based services
Housing with services
Advocacy
Triple Aim
Priorities

- Education and Advocacy
- Seamless coordination
- Legislation
- Person centered
  - Equal Access
  - Self determination
  - Quality of Life
Providing Critical Services for Low-Income Seniors

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# Navigating Health Insurance: What do they have? Need? Qualify for?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Drugs</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
<th>LTC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Medicare Card" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="MedicareRx Plans Card" /></td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Medigap/Retiree Plan Card" /></td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="SeniorHealthChoiceWell-PlusCare MLTC Plan Card" /></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td>MediChoice Options Plus Medicare Advantage w/MedicareRx</td>
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<td>SeniorHealthChoiceWell-PlusCare MLTC Plan</td>
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<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td>SeniorHealthChoiceWell-PlusCare FIDA</td>
<td>John Doe</td>
<td>Member ID: 123456ABC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Navigating Systems

REGULATOR

PLAN

COUNTY

MANAGED CARE BROKER
Direct Representation

- Aide Shortage
  - Empire Justice Center; Rensselaer County

- Increase in care
  - NYLAG; NYC

- Wheelchair Ramp
  - Nassau Suffolk Law Services Committee; Nassau County

Hearings found at https://otda.ny.gov/hearings/search/
Case # 7103015Y, 7329751H, 7273600L
Policy Advocacy

• Coalitions, Workgroups, Task Forces, Local Bar Association Committees

• Comments and Testimony. See e.g. in re 2016-2017 Executive Budget:
  • http://www.wnylc.com/health/download/596/

• Reports. See e.g., report on home care reductions:
  • http://tinyurl.com/nytimes-FairHearing
LGBTQ/SGL, Poor and Old: Creating Formulas to Eliminate Barriers to Critical Services


Presenter: Dr. Imani Woody, President/CEO
Mary’s House for Older Adults
CELEBRATION

43rd Anniversary of the Removal of “Homosexuality” from the DSM (1973)
Aging, LGBT Elders, Poverty and Discrimination

FOR RENT*

* Unless you’re LGBT

fight aging
The data shows...

- 1.5 Million, the estimated number of LGBT people in the US 65 years or older
- 2030, the year this population will double
- 50 or older, half of all people living with HIV, 70% by 2020
- 48% of older same sex couples experienced housing discrimination
- Housing crisis facing people with HIV
The Way Things Were

- Could be arrested, fired or hospitalized
- Countless put in mental institutions
- Many married and had children to fit in
- Name written in local newspaper as sex-deviant.
- Sex-realignment surgery unavailable
LGBTQ/SGL elders age with fewer supports

- 80% of LGBTQ/SGL elders age without a partner vs. 40% of overall older adult population
- 90% of LGBTQ/SGL elders don’t have children vs. 20% of overall older adult population
- Face higher levels of financial insecurity and a general lack of affordable housing.

*Poverty is an LGBT Issue: An Assessment of the Legal Needs of Low-Income LGBT People*
States With LGBT Employment Protection

- Purple: Employment discrimination for orientation and gender identity
- Magenta: Employment discrimination for orientation
- Red: No employment nondiscrimination laws

Source: ACLU
General Experiences of LGBT Elders

- Sense of Being Different
- Aversion to Labels
- Deliberate Concealment of Sexual Identity and Orientation
- Fear of Rejection and Loss from Biological Family and Friends
- Sense of Grief and Loss related to aging and its effects on the quality of one’s life.
We cannot keep turning our backs on gay and lesbian Americans. I have fought too hard and too long against discrimination based on race and color not to stand up against discrimination based on sexual orientation.

John E. Lewis
Allies Can Provide SAFE Zones

- Use Mr., Mrs. or Ms. until directed otherwise.
- Use the client’s chosen pronoun; address client as s/he wants to be addressed.
- Refrain from LGBTQ slurs, or hate speech.
- Put a LGBTQ colored rainbow on your desk.
- Know it’s inappropriate to ask people about their anatomy or if they take hormones, etc.
- Don’t laugh at jokes that put LGBTQ, or any other group of people down. Let people know that is unacceptable to you.
Resources

• Mary’s House for Older Adults: info@Maryshousedc.org
• SAGE USA, sageusa.org
• National AIDS Housing Council, nationalaidshousing.org
• AIDS Housing Alliance, ahasf.org
• The National LGBTQ Task Force, thetaskforce.org
• DC Office on Aging dcoa.dc.gov
• Casa Ruby, casaruby.org
• Lambda Legal, lambdalegal.org/
Dr. Imani Woody  202-607-7970  drimani@maryshousedc.org