



48<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

***Relationships & Aging:  
Successes and Challenges with Families,  
Caregivers, and the Workforce***

*Hosted by:*

**Bowling Green State University**

*Bowling Green, Ohio*

**March 20-21, 2025**

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# A Message from the OAGE President

## Jennifer M. Kinney, PhD

President, OAGE Board of Directors

Professor of Gerontology & Scripps Gerontology Research Fellow

Miami University



Dear OAGE Conference Attendees,

Welcome to the 48th Annual Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education (OAGE) conference at Bowling Green State University! The theme of this year's conference is "*Relationships and Aging: Successes and Challenges with Families, Caregivers, and the Workforce.*"

It has been a productive year for OAGE. We completed a three-year strategic plan; OAGE board and committee members presented at the O4a annual conference (and will present at the 2025 OHCA and O4a conferences); they testified before the Ohio House Children and Human Services Committee about the Ohio Scholars in Aging Program; and we will unveil our new website during the conference (thanks to Jennifer Bechtel, who led this effort). We also thank Patrick Mese and Jennifer Westfall, who are leaving the board. And, when you see them, please congratulate—and thank—Dan Van Dussen and Morgan Minyo, our new President and Vice-President, and Bailee Brekke and Joe Rossi, our new board members.

The conference starts Thursday morning with a pre-conference "Ohio Does Research!" Sharecase. We invite you to review conference attendees' summaries of their recently completed and ongoing research in this informal session. If you are not able to attend, summaries will be available online after the conference.

Our first keynote speaker on Thursday afternoon is Dr. Dawn C. Carr (University of South Florida) who will speak on the role of psychological resilience in coping with spousal loss. Other afternoon highlights include the 2025 ODA/OAGE Scholars in Aging Program poster session and a reception at a local nursing facility. In between these events are two sets of concurrent sessions that include the 2024 OAGE award winners' presentations and sessions on various aspects of dementia, family support/intergenerational relationships, and what Ohio is doing to support its older population.

Friday morning opens with our second keynote speaker, Dr. Emelia McCuen (Bowling Green State University), who will talk about addressing identity in the aging population through value and purpose. The remainder of Friday includes concurrent sessions and an end-of-the-day poster session on important topics such as educating, empowering, and building meaningful partnerships to promote aging well; diversity in the experience of aging and delivering care in diverse settings; using elder justice in overlooked populations and places; and advancing aging-related research. Specific sessions are approved for Continuing Education (CE) credits. If you are seeking CEs, you are required to sign in and out of each session and submit a session evaluation to receive a certificate. Friday's lunch features comments from Ursel J. McElroy, Director of the Ohio Department of Aging (ODA), and presentation of awards—including the Educator, Research, and Practitioner of the Year awards, student awards, and recognition of the 2025 ODA/OAGE Ohio Scholars in Aging.

Please take advantage of the conference to learn about the current research and policies in aging. Also, please visit our display tables and talk with our conference sponsors. This conference exists in large part due to their generosity.

Enjoy the conference – and one another. We are lucky to be part of aging in Ohio. And mark your calendar for the 2026 OAGE on April 16-17 at The Ohio State University.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Jennifer Kinney

# OAGE Board Members

## Executive Committee

- **Jennifer M. Kinney** (President) – Professor of Gerontology, Miami University
- **Daniel J. Van Dussen** (Vice President) – Professor of Gerontology, Youngstown State University
- **Ken Wilson** (Treasurer) – Vice President of Program and Business Operations, Council on Aging of SW Ohio
- **Morgan J. Minyo** (Interim Secretary) – Research Scientist, Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging

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- **Douglas Beach** – Chief Executive Officer, Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging
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- **Cheryl Conley** – Director of Social Services, MemoryLane Care Services
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- **Victoria Steiner** – Faculty, Department of Population Health, The University of Toledo
- **Jennifer Wagner** – Associate Professor, Director of Optimal Aging Institute, Bowling Green State University

## Student Members

- **Yvonne Fuhara** – Master's Student, Health Services Administration, Bowling Green State University
- **Emma Griffey** – Bachelor's Student, Nursing, Ohio University
- **Patrick Mese** – Master's Student, Gerontological Studies, Miami State University, Oxford

## Emeritus Trustees

- **Richard R. Haubner** – Director & Associate Professor of Gerontology, College of Mount St. Joseph
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- **Alex Lapso** – Legislative Liaison, Ohio Department of Aging
- **Steve Nameth** – Assistant Director, Graduate Program Review
- **Jennifer Westfall** – Aging and Disability Director, Buckeye Hills Regional Council

# 2025 OAGE Conference Planning Committee

## 2025 OAGE Conference Planning Committee Members

- **Jen Bechtel** – The Ohio State University
- **Salli Bollin** – Memory Lane Care Services
- **Cheryl Conley** – Memory Lane Care Services
- **Yvonne Furaha** – Bowling Green State University
- **Chih-Ling Liou** – Kent State University
- **Vivian Miller (Co-Chair)** – Bowling Green State University
- **Anna Schramm** – Conference Planner
- **Victoria Steiner** – The University of Toledo
- **Tony Sterns** – Non-Board Member
- **Daniel Van Dussen** – Youngstown State University
- **Jennifer Wagner (Co-Chair)** – Bowling Green State University
- **Ken Wilson** – Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio
- **Lyndi Wyrostek** – Memory Lane Care Services

*Thank you for all your support, time, and commitment planning the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual OAGE Conference!*

## Schedule at a Glance

### Day 1: Thursday, March 20, 2025

- **1:00 pm** – Registration
- **1:45 pm** – Opening Program & Keynote
- **3:15 pm** – Breakout Session # 1
- **4:30 pm** – Scholars in Aging Poster Session  
& Light Reception
- **5:45 pm** – Breakout Session #2
- **7:00 pm** – Welcome Reception

### Day 2: Friday, March 21, 2025

- **7:30 am** – Registration
- **8:00 am** – Opening Program & Keynote
- **9:30 am** – Breakout Session #1
- **10:45 am** – Breakout Session #2
- **11:45 pm** – Lunch & Awards Program
- **1:30 pm** – Breakout Session #3
- **2:45 pm** – Breakout Session # 4
- **3:45 pm** – Poster Session
- **5:00 pm** – Site Visit Tour
- **6:00 pm** – President's Dinner

# Keynote Speaker – Dr. Dawn C. Carr



## **Dawn C. Carr, PhD, MGS, FGSA**

*Director, Claude Pepper Center*

*Professor, Department of Sociology*

*Co-Director, Aging Research on Contexts, Health & Inequalities*

*Faculty Fellow, Office of the Vice President for Research*

*Florida State University*

Dr. Dawn Carr is the Director of the Claude Pepper Center and Professor of Sociology at Florida State University. Carr's research focuses on issues related to work and retirement, caregiving, and volunteering during later life, as well as the psychological factors that shape responses to stressful exposures. Her mission as a scholar and through her role as director of a policy-focused research center on aging is to identify factors that bolster older adults' ability to remain healthy, active, and engaged as long as possible. Before joining Florida State University in 2016, she previously worked at the Stanford Center on Longevity, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University where she also completed her Master's in Gerontological Studies and her PhD in Social Gerontology in 2009.

## **The Role of Psychological Resilience in Coping with Spousal Loss**

This presentation will describe the way that scientists evaluate psychological resilience and unique challenges associated with experiencing spousal loss. Based on data drawn from a longitudinal national sample, this presentation will show research findings on the associations between spousal loss and mental health for older men and women during the immediate period following spousal loss and again two years later. The talk will conclude with a discussion about how these findings can be used to inform policies and programs that facilitate improved quality of later life.

### Presentation Objectives:

- Introduce the concept of psychological resilience as a critical characteristic that influences responses to stressful exposures in later life.
- Describe the ways in which the protective effects of psychological resilience on mental health outcomes vary by gender.
- Demonstrate how recovery from stressful events, including spousal loss, occurs over longer periods of time as people navigate normative emotional responses to grief.



# Keynote Speaker – Dr. Emelia McCuen



**Emelia D. McCuen (Exum) PT, DPT, GCS, CCS**

*Board-Certified Geriatric Clinical Specialist*

*Board-Certified Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Clinical Specialist*

*Assistant Clinical Professor*

*School of Physical Therapy*

*Bowling Green State University*

Dr. Emelia McCuen completed her Doctor of Physical Therapy in 2009 from The Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University in Chicago. She is an Assistant Clinical Professor at Bowling Green State University and maintains clinical practice at Baylor University Medical

Center in Dallas, Texas. Emelia is a Board Certified Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Clinical Specialist and Geriatric Clinical Specialist. Her areas of clinical expertise include acute care, critical care, geriatrics, and cardiovascular and pulmonary practice.

## **Are the Golden Years Really Golden? Addressing Identity in the Aging Population Through Value and Purpose**

The aging population is a robust and dynamic community of individuals with unique needs and characteristics. Often, they are generalized and marginalized into stereotypical roles in the golden years of life that may not support their preferred identity. How can we in the gerontology community acknowledge and advocate for the preferred identity of the aging adults that we support. This presentation will explore the various identities of the aging adult and the societal challenges that they face. It will also discuss the importance of value and sense of purpose on identity in the aging adult. Last, it will relay a call to action for professionals and caregivers to promote the identity of the aging adult as valuable in society and in the workforce.

### Presentation Objectives:

- Identify the various identities of an aging adult.
- Explore their caregiving role in support of the chosen identity of the aging adult.
- Advocate for resources to improve the capabilities of the aging adult.

# Presentation Abstracts

(in chronological order)

## **2024 Professional Awards – Winners’ Presentations: 1. Family As a Naturally Occurring Stressor: Research Findings, Strengths, and Challenges 2. Revolutionizing Education: Harnessing Generative AI for Enhanced Teaching and Learning 3. Navigating Five Decades of Change in the Aging Profession: A Personal and Professional Journey**

*Kelly Cichy, PhD; Holly Dabelko-Schoeny, MSW, PhD, FGSA & Larke Recchie, MPA*

In the first section, Dr. Kelly Cichy will provide an overview of research utilizing daily diary approaches to examine the links between naturally occurring stressors and strains of family life and daily health and well-being in midlife and later adulthood. The presentation will highlight the strengths and challenges of daily family stress research, including the implications and directions for future research. In the second section, Dr. Holly Dabelko-Schoeny will present on using AI in the field. In recent years, generative AI has transformed various fields, including gerontological education. This presentation explores its applications in teaching and learning, highlighting impacts on instructor and student practices. She will discuss strategies for writing successful AI prompts using the TRACI framework and address ethical considerations and challenges. In the third section, Larke Recchi, a Miami University Scripps Gerontology Center alumna, will bring her over 50 years of experience navigating the evolving field of aging. Drawing on her personal journey and professional insights, she will highlight transformative changes in how society views aging and supports individuals facing age-related challenges. Through reflections on key milestones, Larke will explore how these shifts impact the future of aging and inspire practitioners to adapt and thrive in a dynamic profession.

### Presentation Objectives:

- Provide an overview of using daily diaries to examine family stressors and well being
- Explore the applications and impacts of AI use in the field
- Highlight the changes in how society views aging and age-related challenges

**Date & Time:** Thursday, March 20 @ 3:15 pm | **Location:** Room 207 | **Presentation Type:** Symposium

## **Comparative Synthesis of Risk Factors Associated with the Progression of Subjective Cognitive Decline to Cognitive Impairment and AD/ADRD: A Scoping Review**

*Obinna Odo, MSW, MSG*

In recent years, subjective cognitive decline (SCD), the self-reporting of cognitive decline, has gained scholarly attention as a critical early sign of cognitive impairment and Alzheimer’s disease and other related dementias (AD/ADRD). However, the literature is inconsistent on the clinical progression of SCD in different countries. This scoping review utilized Arksey and O’Malley’s (2005) framework to (1) explore the risk factors associated with SCD progression to cognitive impairment and AD/ADRD among older adults across transcontinental contexts, and (2) identify early therapeutic interventions that target SCD to prevent cognitive impairment and AD/ADRD among older adults. Twenty-three studies conducted in eight countries were included in the analysis. The researchers found nuances in physiological and genetic biomarkers, the presence of psychological illnesses and comorbidities, and demographic factors associated with the clinical progression of SCD. For example, a higher risk of



pathological progression was associated among SCD individuals with genes such as ApoE e 4 (Italy, U.S., Australia), Neurofilament light chain (Italy) and hyperconnectivity in the posterior default mode network (Canada). Across settings, SCD individuals with severe Parkinson's disease, obesity, and depressive symptoms were at higher risk of clinical progression. Also, while some studies identified SCD individuals aged 75 and over as an at-risk population, other studies identified those 60 and over as being at higher risk. Our findings underscore the need for transcontinental knowledge sharing on cognitive assessment methods, follow-up after baseline, statistical models of SCD data and tailored interventions geared toward mitigating the clinical progression of SCD.

Presentation Objectives:

- Discuss various factors associated with the clinical progression of subjective cognitive decline to Alzheimer's disease and other related dementias across a transcontinental context
- Discuss various preclinical interventions that have been proposed to mitigate clinical progression of subjective cognitive decline to Alzheimer's disease and other related dementias
- Discuss the implications of the nuances in the findings across transcontinental contexts and recommendations

**Date & Time:** Thursday, March 20 @ 3:15 pm | **Location:** Room 314 | **Presentation Type:** Paper

**Living Alone with Dementia: Evidence and Implications from the National Survey of Older Americans Act Participants and the Health and Retirement Study**

*Katelyn Singer, PhD*

The percentage of people living with dementia (PLWD) who also live alone in community settings (i.e., private residences) varies by study or data source. Analyses of the 2015 National Health and Aging Trends Study (NHATS) found that 16% of people with probable dementia were living alone, and preliminary analyses suggest this percentage increased to more than 20% in the 2022 NHATS data. Regardless, the unique needs and challenges faced by people living alone with dementia (PLAWD), such as receiving a diagnosis and managing daily care tasks, deserve attention to ensure proper access to care and services. This study uses the 2022 waves of the National Survey of Older Americans Act Participants (NSOAAP), which is collected annually for programs funded by Title III of the Older Americans Act (e.g., case management, congregate meals, home-delivered meals, homemaker services, transportation services) and the Health and Retirement Study (HRS), which is a longitudinal study of older adults in America. Specifically, the analyses determined how many NSOAAP and HRS respondents reported living alone and having a memory-related disease. Our results indicate that the proportion of older adults fitting these criteria is relatively similar across samples. For example, among OAA participants, 1.2% of congregate meal clients with dementia are living alone, while 0.7% of older adults in the HRS with dementia are living alone. These findings reinforce the need for further examination of living alone with dementia prevalence in the United States to support independent living for this population.

Presentation Objectives:

- Describe the role Older Americans Act (OAA) services can play in supporting the community living of people living alone with dementia
- Summarize the different rates of people who live alone with dementia by OAA service
- Explore future examinations of persons who live alone with dementia outcomes

**Date & Time:** Thursday, March 20 @ 3:15 pm | **Location:** Room 314 | **Presentation Type:** Paper

## **Role of External Factors for Delivering Services to People Living Alone with Dementia**

*Lirisha Tuladhar, MGS*

Many individuals with dementia or cognitive impairment live alone, facing heightened risks and unique care challenges. External factors, such as community support systems, federal funding, and local service availability, play a crucial role in determining the quality and accessibility of care for people living alone with dementia (PLAWD). Despite the challenges and specific needs of PLAWD, how external factors influence effective care approaches still needs to be explored. This study explores the experiences of community-based organizations that received federal funding (ACL's Alzheimer's Disease Program Initiative) to address service gaps and improve care delivery for PLAWD. The study team conducted semi-structured, online interviews with thirteen program directors. These interviews were audio/video-recorded, transcribed, and manually coded by team members using an inductive approach to identify key themes. Findings highlight the role of external factors in supporting or hindering care delivery to PLAWD. For example, cultural context and racial considerations were identified as facilitators and barriers to providing care. The COVID-19 pandemic also emerged as a key external factor that impacted how care was delivered. In addition, the involvement of other organizations or partners and characteristics of the local community (e.g., adjacent services from other organizations) also play a role. This study highlights the importance of external factors when addressing the needs of a vulnerable population such as PLAWD.

### Presentation Objectives:

- Highlight care challenges for individuals with dementia living alone
- Examine the role of external factors on service delivery
- Discuss facilitators and barriers to program success

**Date & Time:** Thursday, March 20 @ 3:15 pm | **Location:** Room 314 | **Presentation Type:** Paper

## **Family Support Paradox: Exploring Family Support and Life Satisfaction among Older Adults in Rural Eastern Nepal**

*Isha Karmacharya, PhD(c)*

While family support positively influences the well-being of older adults, it may also affect their autonomy, self-esteem, and overall life satisfaction. However, there are limited studies on life satisfaction among older adults in Nepal, particularly in rural settings. This study investigated the relationship between family support (for daily activities and living) and life satisfaction among Nepali older adults, with a focus on gender differences. Data were drawn from a cross-sectional survey conducted in rural eastern Nepal through interviewing older adults aged 60 years and above. The total sample for this study was 819. Life satisfaction was measured using Diener's Satisfaction with Life Scale. Binary logistic regression was employed to assess the association between family support and life satisfaction while including gender as a moderating factor. About 57% of older adults reported life satisfaction. Respondents who relied on family support for daily activities had significantly lower odds (OR:0.49,  $p < 0.001$ ) of experiencing life satisfaction. Gender did not exhibit a moderation effect on the relationship between family support for daily activities and life satisfaction. Interestingly, gender moderated the relationship between family support for living and life satisfaction. Older men who relied on family support for living were less satisfied with their lives than older women in similar situations (OR:0.66,  $p < 0.05$ ). This study emphasizes the need for further research to comprehensively understand the impact of family support on life satisfaction among older adults in societies driven by filial piety, with particular focus on underlying mechanisms to confirm this paradoxical relationship.

Presentation Objectives:

- Discuss family support influencing life satisfaction of older adults in rural Nepal, where the culture of filial piety is highly prevalent
- Highlight the paradoxical relationship between family support and life satisfaction of older adults in rural Nepal

**Date & Time:** Thursday, March 20 @ 3:15 pm | **Location:** Room 316 | **Presentation Type:** Paper

**“Sexual Desire Doesn’t Die with Age”: Older Adults’ Perception of Negative Aging Stereotypes in Southeast Nigeria**

*Tochukwu Okolie, BSc*

In today’s world, people readily assume things about a perceived “othered group”. It appears to be convenient to assume the reality of a group of people without facts. Older adults are typically at the receiving end of assumptions, referred to as stereotypes. Although stereotypes can be positive as well as negative, generalizing specific individual characteristics to an entire group is not only problematic but also diminishes the unique contributions and experiences of individuals. In this descriptive qualitative study, the researchers focused on negative stereotypes against older adults in Southeast Nigeria. Sixteen older adults aged 65 years and above were recruited through a convenience sampling technique from one of the rural communities in Southeastern Nigeria. Data was collected through a semi-structured interview and analyzed with NVivo 12 software. From the analysis, four major themes emerged: 1.) Productivity depends on the individual, 2.) Sexual desire doesn’t die with age, 3.) Young people forget too, and 4.) She’s responsible for the death. The findings show older adults’ disagreement with the assessed negative stereotypes and why it is important to dispel these stereotypical beliefs. Given that perpetrators of ageist stereotypes typically internalize such behavior as a result of institutionalized ageism, the study recommends incorporating gerontology into the education curriculum, irrespective of the chosen discipline. There is also a need for programs targeted towards intergenerational exchange for a better understanding of older adults and their aging experiences.

Presentation Objectives:

- Spark more attention on the need for more efforts in shunning aging stereotypes
- Contribute to what is known about aging stereotypes among under-researched populations using the Nigerian population of older adults.

**Date & Time:** Thursday, March 20 @ 3:15 pm | **Location:** Room 316 | **Presentation Type:** Paper

**Symposium: 1. Making Ohio the Best Place to Age in the Nation; 2. The Demographics of Aging in Ohio; 3. ODA Program Highlights; 4. EXCEL Academy**

*Jamie Carmichael, MAPA; Luke Werhan, MPA; Sara Morman, BA; Sarah Jones, LISW-S & Nancy Bucci, RN, BSN*

The Department of Aging is Ohio’s federally designated State Unit on Aging committed to its vision: make Ohio the best place to age in the nation. The Department serves 2.8 million older Ohioans and their caregivers through fostering sound public policy, research, and initiatives that benefit older Ohioans across a continuum of care that spans from living independently at home to 24-hour supervision and care provided in long-term care facilities. Ohio’s 2023-2026 State Plan on Aging sets a bold goal that all Ohioans live longer, healthier lives with dignity and autonomy, and that disparities and inequities are eliminated. In the first section, the presenters will provide an overview of the

Department's strategic priorities and recent efforts. The second section will provide the landscape of aging in Ohio, including data about the current older population and trends over time, and discuss potential implications for building an age-inclusive infrastructure. The third section will cover a wide range of topics, including Older Americans Act (OAA) changes, ODA's Healthy Aging Grants, expansion of Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), and an Overview of the PASSPORT and Assisted Living waiver programs. The final section will describe the EXCEL Academy: The vision for EXCEL Academy is to cultivate excellence in long-term care, in ways that impact the quality of care and quality of life of older Ohioans living in nursing homes. Nursing home staff are attending webinars and in-person instruction, receiving on-site coaching/mentoring participate in exercises, reviewing evidence-based material, and building "team" culture overall.

Presentation Objectives:

- Discuss the current scope of Department of Aging efforts to modernize the aging network in Ohio
- Discuss ODA's efforts to improve quality in long-term care facilities, and how Ohio consumers can navigate the process for selecting the best facility for themselves or a loved one
- Present data about the current older population and trends over time
- Present resources available to support healthy aging in Ohio

**Date & Time:** Thursday, March 20 @ 5:45 pm | **Location:** Room 207 | **Presentation Type:** Symposium

**Exploring Training Opportunities for Gerontology in the Aging Network**

*Richard Meeker, MA, MSW, LISW-S & Daniel J. Van Dussen, PhD*

The aging field in Ohio continues to be a growing need. While more professionals come into the field, it is important to ensure that these professionals receive appropriate training and instruction to help them provide quality services to older adults. This workshop will discuss concerns that arise from ageist attitudes and practices with those interacting with older adults. It will discuss how these practices can have a negative impact on the health outcomes, and quality of life for older adults. This workshop will explore ideas regarding trainings and education that the gerontology field can provide to those professionals in the aging network to help them in the interactions with the older adults that they work with. Through interactions in this workshop, ideas will be explored regarding trainings and education that can be offered for professionals in the aging network.

Presentation Objectives:

- Discuss concerns of ageist beliefs, attitudes, and practices and how they can adversely impact older adults
- Explore participants (practitioners, researchers, or students) own trainings/studies regarding addressing ageist beliefs and practices
- Discuss Gerontology studies and research that can be utilized by those in the aging network through trainings
- Discuss and explore opportunities for enhancing education/trainings for those in the aging network

**Date & Time:** Thursday, March 20 @ 5:45 pm | **Location:** Room 314 | **Presentation Type:** Workshop

## **Structure and Satisfaction: Social Support Networks among Older Grandparents Raising Adolescent Grandchildren**

*Tina Dothard Peterson, PhD, MPH, CSW, FGSA*

Nationally, 1.12 million grandparents are primary caregivers for grandchildren (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021). One-third of grandchildren raised by older grandparents are adolescents (Generations United, 2022; Peterson, 2017). The needs of adolescent grandchildren warrant access to quality assistance from an array of social support networks. This presentation will explore the structure of and satisfaction with social support networks among older grandparents raising adolescent grandchildren. Older grandparent caregivers (n=19) participated in a phenomenological study of Caregiving in Later Life by Grandparents Raising Adolescent Grandchildren. Eligibility criteria were primary caregiver for a grandchild 12 or older; grandchild in home at least 3 days weekly; and grandparent 40 or older. Data collection occurred in 2015 across three states. Participants tended to be grandmothers (84.2%), married (57.9%), white non-Hispanic (52.6%) or Black/African American (37%), and caregiving for grandchildren more than nine years (75%). Family (89.4%) and community groups/organizations (84.2%) emerged as the primary sources of support. Friends (73.7%) and the faith-based community (68.4%) ranked third and fourth. Biological parents and neighbors (2.1%) were rarely mentioned as sources of support. Family (73.6%) accounted for the highest satisfaction with support followed by community groups/organizations (52.6%). Some older grandparent caregivers also reported low levels of satisfaction across all social networks. Critical consciousness raising is warranted among policy leaders, community organizations, and direct practitioners to address the shifts and gaps occurring in formal and informal social networks of older grandparents raising adolescent grandchildren. Implications will be discussed to expand resources targeting unmet needs occurring within this caregiving population.

### Presentation Objectives:

- Describe the structure of social networks used by older grandparents raising adolescent grandchildren
- Discuss the quality of satisfaction with social networks used by older grandparents raising adolescent grandchildren
- Discuss opportunities to address the shifts and gaps occurring in formal and informal social networks of older grandparents raising adolescent grandchildren

**Date & Time:** Thursday, March 20 @ 5:45 pm | **Location:** Room 316 | **Presentation Type:** Workshop

### **Symposium: 1. Bridging Policy and Services in the Adult Day Sector; 2. Exploration of Adult Day Services; 3. An Adult Day Services Provider's Perspective**

*MaKenna D. McClure, MGS; Heather Menne, MGS, PhD; Kingsley C. Udeh, MSPH; Randi Hamill, MSW; Laurinda Johnson, BA & Salli Bollin, MSW, LSW*

Adult day services (ADS) are a vital piece of the aging network that provide socialization and care to older adults living in the community. ADS promotes aging in place but is surprisingly underutilized. Like other aging services, ADS suffered due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Subsequently, the Adult Day Impacted Industry Program was formed using American Rescue Plan Act funds. This program provided funding to adult day centers with the aim of revitalizing ADS throughout the state. LeadingAge Ohio was tasked with assisting adult day providers applying for these funds. Additionally, LeadingAge Ohio received a grant from the Ohio Department of Aging to continue to revitalize ADS by promoting the service and educating the public and other aging service providers. The first section of the symposium will explain how these government dollars were used to create an impact in the world of ADS.

Researchers from the Scripps Gerontology Center conducted two rounds of focus groups with adult day providers. The first discussing challenges providers face and the second surrounding potential solutions. Additionally, the Scripps research team conducted a survey of adult day centers in Ohio. Findings from these projects will be presented in the second section. During the third section, an adult day provider will share insight into the hardships of providing services over the past years and the process of applying for and utilizing funds from the Adult Day Impacted Industry Program. This symposium aims to showcase the relationship between policy, research, and practice regarding adult day services in Ohio.

Presentation Objectives:

- Demonstrate how policy, research, and practice intersect and work together to improve aging services for older adults
- Explain the process of advocating for, receiving, and utilizing government funding for aging services
- Disseminate results from both qualitative and quantitative research projects aimed at understanding the state of adult day services in Ohio
- Provide insight from those working at adult day centers regarding the facilitators and barriers of providing adult day services throughout the recent years

**Date & Time:** Friday, March 21 @ 9:30 am | **Location:** Room 308 | **Presentation Type:** Symposium

**Symposium: 1. Navigating Recruitment and Retention Challenges in Older Adult Research; 2. Recruitment of Cognitively Impaired Older Adults: Techniques and Challenges: 3. Broadening Access: Recruitment of Dementia Caregivers in Online Research**

*Claire E. Grant, MA; Emma Jackson, BA; Michelle Moore, BA & Bethany G. Cox, MA*

As population demographics shift, new research is needed to understand the experiences and perspectives of the older adult population. Continued improvements and new strategies in recruitment and retention have increased access to older adult participants. This symposium will discuss complexities and successes in recruiting and retaining older adult and caregiver populations in research. The first section of the symposium will explore the unique challenges of recruiting older adults in laboratory-based studies. Presenters will discuss current recruitment strategies, university sponsored initiatives, and outline common issues faced by laboratory researchers. The second section will discuss collaborative approaches to facilitate the inclusion of people with cognitive impairment in research. This presentation will discuss unique challenges in collecting data in this population and working with stakeholders to increase receptivity to participation in research. The third and final section will examine the benefits of online data collection in recruiting diverse samples of dementia caregivers. Discussion will include a range of online recruitment techniques and will highlight obstacles and successes in collecting data in this population. Together, this symposium will highlight obstacles and promising pathways toward inclusive and sustainable recruitment of older adults and their caregivers in a wide range of research areas and interests.

Presentation Objectives:

- Examine effective recruitment strategies and identify common challenges in engaging older adults, those with cognitive impairment, and caregivers in in-person and online research settings
- Discuss innovative approaches in enhancing recruitment and retention of special populations across areas of research

**Date & Time:** Friday, March 21 @ 9:30 am | **Location:** Room 314 | **Presentation Type:** Symposium



## **Applying Trauma-Informed Care in Your Personal and Professional Life**

*Kamryn Kasler, MGS; Jennifer M. Kinney, PhD; Daniel J. Van Dussen, PhD & Amy Weaver, PhD, RN, CNE*

Trauma is widespread and pervasive; up to ninety percent of adults nationwide have experienced some type of trauma during their lives, regardless of age, ability, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation. This workshop will provide a foundational overview of trauma, compassion fatigue, and the Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) framework and their relevance in the health and human service sectors. Participants will learn to identify trauma in those they serve and understand how trauma manifests in their own work experiences, including compassion fatigue and burnout. Spillover effects of professional trauma on personal life will also be explored, discussing its cumulative impact on health and well-being. The workshop will conclude with practical strategies for integrating TIC into organizational culture and practicing effective self-care. Resources for further education and support will be provided. This workshop is open to all, with implications for case management, social work, nursing, and middle- and upper-management.

### Presentation Objectives:

- Introduce the Trauma-Informed Approach
- Explore the signs of personal/organizational compassion fatigue and methods for mitigating their effects
- Help attendees to apply new learnings to personal and professional life through World Café small group discussion

**Date & Time:** Friday, March 21 @ 9:30 am | **Location:** Room 207 | **Presentation Type:** Workshop

## **Bridging Education and Practice: Preparing Future Professionals for Careers in Aging Services**

*Yvonne Furaha, BAC; Patrick Mese, MSW, MGS & Emma Griffey*

For students, transitioning into the workforce after graduation is a major source of stress, especially in subjects like gerontology and aging. The goal of this workshop is to give students the skills and resources they need to pursue successful careers in social and health aging services. By merging clinical knowledge with patient-centered, compassionate care, the workshop equips students to work in this complex profession. The workshop will address aging practice and allow students from other professions—such as nursing, social work, and physical therapy—to participate meaningfully. Participants will be able to learn about using their knowledge in clinical situations and ask questions. The presenters' goals are to improve student viewpoints and encourage professional development among those working in the aging healthcare industry. They will talk about efforts to improve student engagement and meet their needs in the contexts of school and the community, such as mentoring programs and networking events. The goal is to equip the next generation of gerontologists to take on the possibilities and problems that come with an aging population by fostering an engaging atmosphere.

### Presentation Objectives:

- Prepare participants for the working culture with other disciplines while working with older adults in an interdisciplinary collaboration in the context of cultural competence and sensitivity
- Discuss strategies for handling the strain of older adults' or clients' psychosocial/emotional needs as new employees in the context of mental health and productivity.

**Date & Time:** Friday, March 21 @ 9:30 am | **Location:** Room 315 | **Presentation Type:** Workshop

## **Empowering Professionals: Addressing Opioid Concerns in Older Adults**

*Richard Meeker, MA, MSW, LISW-S*

This presentation will discuss Opioid use and its concerns with older adults. It will also discuss symptoms of Opioid use and abuse with older adults, and will identify challenges to treatment and treatment options with older adults. The presenter will provide resources for treatment and intervention for Opioid use and abuse for older adults and family members

### Presentation Objectives:

- Identify and discuss opioid use and its concerns with older adults
- Discuss symptoms of opioid use and abuse with older adults
- Identify challenges to treatment and discuss treatment options with older adults
- Provide resources for treatment and intervention for opioid use and abuse for older adults and family members

**Date & Time:** Friday, March 21 @ 9:30 am | **Location:** Room 316 | **Presentation Type:** Workshop

## **Symposium: 1. Never Too Old to Transition; 2. Old, Bigoted, and Out of Touch: Perceptions of Aging in the Trans Community; 3. Bisexual Women are Not Straight: Navigating a Lifetime of Bisexual Erasure**

*Aimee Trunko, BA; Daniel Michaud, BA & Adara Turek, BA*

The Tri-Lab in the Psychology Department at the University of Akron is currently focusing on minority stressors related to aging in queer populations. The presenters have examined internalized ageism in older trans folks, as well as how transitioning in later life can be experienced differently than transitioning in younger adulthood. Finally, they will examine how bisexual women cope with a lifetime of stigma around their own bi-erasure and whether gender of partner and partner responsiveness are intervening variables between bi-negativity and relationship satisfaction. Overall, the presenters are working to shine the light on the lives of older queer adults, in both quantitative and qualitative designs, in order to begin to elucidate the nuances of these populations.

### Presentation Objectives:

- Educate attendees on the status of queer aging
- List the ways in which older queer adults experience minority stressors.

**Date & Time:** Friday, March 21 @ 10:45 am | **Location:** Room 308 | **Presentation Type:** Symposium

## **Bringing an Intergenerational Art-Making Service-Learning Course to a Virtual Platform: Lessons from its Opportunities and Challenges**

*Jenny Kwon, MSGS & Kate Poppenhagen, MH*

This workshop will explore the evolution of ScrippsAVID (Arts-based, Virtual, Intergenerational Discovery) and focus on lessons learned when transitioning an in-person service-learning course into a virtual format. First, a brief history of an arts-based intergenerational service-learning course offered at Miami University will be shared. It will trace its development, beginning with an introduction of the foundational program, Opening Minds through Art (OMA), an in-person intergenerational art-making

program designed for people living with dementia, to its shift to Virtual OMA, developed in response to COVID-19. The overview will conclude with the introduction of ScrippsAVID as the next stage in this ongoing evolution. Next, the presenters will examine the logistics of ScrippsAVID, a virtual video-chat platform designed to foster intergenerational friendships through creative activities such as visual art, music, poetry, and storytelling. The session will begin with a review of the program's implementation over two semesters, focusing on the course structure, analysis of user satisfaction scores, and reflections from student journals, based on 244 matches since its launch in 2024. This discussion will highlight the opportunities and challenges identified from the first semester of classes in Spring 2024, the adjustments made for Fall 2024, and plans for further improvement. Participants will also learn how to navigate ScrippsAVID and engage in a hands-on art-making activity using the platform. As a wrap-up of the workshop, participants will reflect on their experiences in the workshop with other participants, and share ideas on how they can expand their own service-learning programming.

**Presentation Objectives:**

- Discuss opportunities and barriers to transforming an in-person service-learning course into a virtual platform
- Lead attendees in a demonstration to practice facilitating an arts-based activity using prompts from the ScrippsAVID platform

**Date & Time:** Friday, March 21 @ 10:45 am | **Location:** Room 315 | **Presentation Type:** Workshop

**Hospice Workers Experiences During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

*Jonathan N. Trauth, EdD; Karleah Harris, PhD & Nikkita Jackson, DSW*

In addition to addressing the nursing and medical needs of hospice patients, it is crucial to assess their social needs, including their relationships, feelings of isolation and loneliness, sense of inclusion or exclusion, and access to formal and informal support systems—especially when managing a life-limiting condition. This presentation will examine the challenges adult hospice patients faced during the COVID-19 pandemic and highlight the innovative adaptations in care that emerged in response to these challenges.

**Presentation Objectives:**

- Educate attendees about the challenge of end-of-life care during a global pandemic and their experience during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Identify the effects the COVID-19 pandemic has on older adults living in urban and rural communities
- Explore current policies surrounding global responsibility in addressing the COVID-19 end-of-life crisis
- Examine ways to assess and evaluate access to resources for older adults and families

**Date & Time:** Friday, March 21 @ 10:45 am | **Location:** Room 316 | **Presentation Type:** Workshop

**Opportunities to Advance Elder Justice in Overlooked Place-based Settings**

*Tina Dothard Peterson, PhD, MPH, CSW, FGSA; Gregory Stewart, PhD, MSW, MS & Edson Chipalo, PhD*

Older adults can age in place in many different settings. The place-based settings where older adults and their family networks live and interact create promises and challenges for elder justice issues. Often,

society has a narrow view of elder justice issues occurring in select place-based settings such as nursing homes, family and friend homes, and personal residences. The persistent attention to high profile place-based settings is warranted, but there are missed opportunities to address overlooked place-based settings where elder justice issues are occurring with little or no societal intervention. Overlooked place-based settings may include but not be limited to religious/spiritual groups, extended stay hotels, migrant workspaces, hotel and food industries, gambling spaces, and more. In conjunction with the OAGE Education Committee, this workshop will critically explore overlooked place-based settings involving elder justice issues. Panelists will share research- and practice-informed insight on overlooked place-based settings and elder justice issues. Strategies will be offered to assist older adults and their family networks, faith-related community leaders, practitioners, and students with promising approaches to identify, prevent, and intervene in elder justice issues occurring in nontraditional place-based settings.

Presentation Objectives:

- Define what is meant by overlooked place-based settings involving elder justice issues
- Share research- and practice-informed insight on overlooked place-based settings and elder justice issues
- Offer recommendations for promising approaches to identify, prevent, and intervene in elder justice issues occurring in overlooked place-based settings

**Date & Time:** Friday, March 21 @ 10:45 am | **Location:** Room 207 | **Presentation Type:** Workshop

**Exploring the Long-Term Impact of COVID-19 on Older Adults Receiving Home-Delivered Meals: An Interprofessional Examination**

*HeeSoon Lee, PhD*

Older adults living in the community are experiencing long-term consequences after COVID-19. More specifically, older adults who are receiving home-delivered meals (HDM). This qualitative study explored the challenges and different aspects of wellness of HDM recipients during COVID-19, focusing on social well-being and possible enhancements to the HDM program. In-depth, semi-structured interviews were conducted with fourteen community-dwelling older adults (N = 14), aged 64 to 100, who were receiving HDMs. Six key themes emerged from the study, including: (1) Chronic health conditions, (2) Concerns about technology, (3) Religion and spirituality, (4) Family engagement, (5) The social and spiritual impact of COVID-19, and (6) Issues with home-delivered meals. The findings highlight the need for an increase in supports and services for community-dwelling older adults, such as user-friendly technology, assistance with health-related appointments (e.g. telehealth), and a volunteer-run home assistance program.

Presentation Objectives:

- Discuss the specific challenges faced by older adults receiving home-delivered meals (HDMs)
- Identify possible solutions to address the long-term impacts of COVID-19 on homebound older adults

**Date & Time:** Friday, March 21 @ 1:30 pm | **Location:** Room 314 | **Presentation Type:** Paper

## **Provider by Day, Caretaker by Night: The Dichotomy of the Healthcare Professional Who is Also a Caregiver**

*Tawiona Brown, PT, DPT, NCS*

The growing population of aging adults creates a change in dynamic regarding the relationships, roles, and responsibilities with their caregivers. Many of these caregivers are not employees, but family members. Healthcare professionals such as social workers, physicians, nurses, and physical therapists are amongst the growing number of caregivers that find themselves doing “double duty”, taking care of elderly parents with multiple comorbidities and declining functional mobility. The occurrence of “double duty” caregiving is becoming more prevalent as the Baby Boomer generation continues to age. This presentation will discuss the current literature that highlights and identifies the profound challenges facing the double duty caregiver and detrimental effects such as increased mental and physical fatigue, extreme exhaustion and loss of self, high stress and feelings of isolation. It will also define double duty caregiving and how that affects caregiving relationships. Lastly, this presentation will address what can be done to minimize the effects of these challenges to prevent elements such as burnout, compassion fatigue, and work-privacy conflict.

### Presentation Objectives:

- Define double duty caregiving and discuss challenges double duty caregivers encounter
- Discuss the effects of double duty caregiving on the healthcare professional
- Identify how double duty caregiving can affect the relationship of the caregiver and the aging adult being cared for
- Discuss ways to minimize the potential negative effects caused from double duty caregiving

**Date & Time:** Friday, March 21 @ 1:30 pm | **Location:** Room 314 | **Presentation Type:** Paper

## **Unraveling the Neurocognitive Effects of Caregiver Stress Recall: An fNIRS Investigation**

*Katelyn Singer, PhD*

Caregiving is a rewarding and strenuous activity that affects the physiological, psychological, and cognitive processes in the human body. While caregiving stress has been studied previously, these studies have overlooked a common symptom of experiencing stress: rumination. The present study explored how recalling stressful caregiving experiences affected caregiver stress levels and their cognitive performance. Neural correlates underlying cognitive performance were also examined. The present study examined executive functioning using the AX-Continuous Performance Test and utilized functional near-infrared spectroscopy (fNIRS) to track changes in prefrontal lobe oxygenation. Findings indicated that longer lifetime durations of caregiving activities, not recalling stressful experiences, are associated with poorer performance on the AX-CPT in the present sample of caregivers, though no changes in neural correlates were observed.

### Presentation Objectives:

- Describe caregiver experiences of stress rumination
- Detail the current study’s research questions, methodology, and results
- Discuss how the present study’s findings can be expanded

**Date & Time:** Friday, March 21 @ 1:30 pm | **Location:** Room 314 | **Presentation Type:** Paper

## Leisure Activity Preferences among Attendees at Adult Day Services in Taiwan

*Chih-ling Liou, PhD*

Studies have underscored the significance of understanding and respecting individual preferences, as it contributes to their perception of autonomy, thereby enhancing their quality of life and emotional well-being. Despite this importance, preferences are often overlooked when planning activities within adult day care (ADS) centers. To address this gap, this study utilized 24 interview questions from the Preferences for Everyday Living Inventory for ADS in Chinese (PELI-ADS-C) to investigate leisure activity preferences among Taiwanese ADS attendees. A total of sixty-seven participants were recruited from five different ADS centers in Taipei, Taiwan, with the majority being females (68.7%) and having a mean age of 80.2 years. Participants rated 24 various leisure activities on a 4-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 (very important) to 4 (not at all important). The top five most highly rated preferences for leisure activities were 1. Participating in religious services or practices ( $M=2.0$ ,  $SD=0.92$ ), 2. Doing things with a group of people ( $M=2.17$ ,  $SD=0.63$ ), 3. Keeping up with news ( $M=2.20$ ,  $SD=0.98$ ), 4. Listening to music ( $M=2.21$ ,  $SD=0.90$ ), and 5. Watching or listening to TV ( $M=2.24$ ,  $SD=1.00$ ). Conversely, the top five least important preferences were 1. Volunteering ( $M=3.54$ ,  $SD=0.73$ ), 2. Sports ( $M=3.52$ ,  $SD=0.95$ ), 3. Using the computer ( $M=3.41$ ,  $SD=0.90$ ), 4. Watching movies ( $M=3.21$ ,  $SD=0.89$ ), and 5. Going shopping ( $M=3.08$ ,  $SD=1.04$ ). These results can be shared with ADS staff to implement preference-based leisure activities, focusing on the most important preferences identified by attendees. Additionally, interventions can be developed to address barriers associated with the least important preferences, ultimately enhancing the overall experience and outcomes for ADS attendees.

### Presentation Objectives:

- Discuss the advantages of comprehending older adults' leisure activity preferences
- Discuss the top five most/least important preferences for leisure activities among Taiwanese ADS attendees
- Describe how to formulate a strategy for ADS staff to enhance their activities by respecting ADS attendees' preferences

**Date & Time:** Friday, March 21 @ 1:30 pm | **Location:** Room 207 | **Presentation Type:** Paper

## Travel Barriers in Perspectives of Aging Segmentations

*Bob Lee, PhD*

Older adults, 65 years old and beyond, took about 18.5% of U.S. total population in 2024, which may classify American as an aged society. A growing aging population indicates an emerging large market offering opportunity for business and demanding relevant services. Interestingly enough, the new older generation was depicted as "Leisure Boomers", and they often love to express their leisure on roads. Research in leisure industry revealed that in their early retirement age, retired people tend to travel; about two-thirds of leisure-based domestic travel in the U.S. is made by older adults. Clearly, there is the need in tourism research to investigate travel-related activities among this segment, including constraints that may prevent them from taking vacations. Through a literature review, a questionnaire was developed in order to conduct a survey. The questionnaire includes four sections: demographics, health status, leisure lifestyle, and travel barriers. About 400 surveys were administrated among older adults, aged from 65 to 92. Data analysis was conducted with SPSS software, version 24.0. Both descriptive and inferential statistics were employed for data analysis. The findings revealed that significant differences exist among different aging group regarding their perceived constraints to travel. Research limitations and implications for the study on the oldest-old's travel are discussed in the end.



Presentation Objectives:

- Discuss the research study about leisure activities and travel among older adults
- Describe the “Leisure Boomer” population and their tendency to travel
- Provide recommendations and implications for future research and practice based on the results

**Date & Time:** Friday, March 21 @ 1:30 pm | **Location:** Room 207 | **Presentation Type:** Paper

**Applying the Communicative Ecology Model for Successful Aging to Education and Policy in Ohio**

*Katey Price, PhD & Richard Meeker, MA, MSW, LISW-S*

Successful aging is a common focal point for educators, researchers, and agencies in the state of Ohio and the rest of the country; along these lines, it is important to equip those entering the aging network workforce with the skills and knowledge necessary to not only assist older adults with their needs, but to also build an environment with older adults that creates positive and efficacious feelings about aging. A newer theoretical model in the field of communication and aging, the Communicative Ecology Model of Successful Aging (CEMSA; Fowler, Gasiorek, & Giles, 2015), highlights how communication is a key component in older adults’ ability to age positively. The theory outlines how individuals create communication environments, or “aging spaces”, that impact their feelings and communicative behaviors related to getting older. Communication behaviors, including expressed optimism about aging, planning for future care needs, and using newer communication technology, can help in decreasing uncertainty and increasing self-efficacy about the aging process. The building empirical evidence demonstrates that individuals have agency over the aging course based on the communicative ecologies they create. Application of this theoretical model can be an important tool for educators, practitioners, and policy professionals to engage and bolster climates of communication that increase the likelihood that older adults age more successfully through positive affect about aging and ultimately self-efficacy.

Presentation Objectives:

- Introduce the audience to the Communicative Ecology Model for Successful Aging
- Demonstrate how the theory can be applied to the goals of educators and practitioners working with older adults to increase the likelihood of successful aging

**Date & Time:** Friday, March 21 @ 1:30 pm | **Location:** Room 315 | **Presentation Type:** Paper

**“Our Challenge is Keeping Our Doors Open:” Adult Day Service Provision in Ohio**

*Kingsley C. Udeh, MSPH, BMLS*

Adult day services centers (ADSC) provide coordinated social and health services to people living with various chronic conditions who need assistance with some activities to continue living in their community. The COVID-19 pandemic greatly impacted the delivery of adult day service. Knowledge of the current challenges and realities faced by ADSC providers in Ohio is limited. As part of a larger study, the researchers examined challenges experienced by a sample of ADSC providers in Ohio (n=34) who responded to an online survey assessing potential operational, community, staff-related, and participant-related challenges. More than two-thirds of ADSC providers reported operational challenges like too little funding and reimbursement rates and community-related challenges like limited ADS awareness in the community, among county agencies and case managers, and few referrals as moderate

to major challenges. ADS providers reported center-related challenges (e.g., staff shortage, and hesitation among families about enrollment) as minor to moderate challenges. Findings from this study suggest that ADSC providers face a number of challenges. Importantly, many of these challenges can be addressed by making policies targeted toward enhancing the quality of ADS provision (e.g. increasing rates, easing bureaucratic glitches to enable timely reimbursement, access to grants, educating case managers and county agencies about ADS, and use of public media for ADS marketing and more). Future research that tries to understand these challenges in relation to ownership type and other factors such as location as well as possible solutions are strongly encouraged.

Presentation Objectives:

- Discuss challenges faced by ADS providers, especially as it pertains to providers' experiences since the COVID-19 pandemic
- Explain possible solutions to challenges faced by providers
- Discuss potential ways to advance empirical understanding of ADS policy and practice in the U.S.

**Date & Time:** Friday, March 21 @ 1:30 pm | **Location:** Room 315 | **Presentation Type:** Paper

**What Effect Does Nursing Home Leadership Turnover Have on the Quality of Care?**

*Jenny Kwon, MS*

Workforce stability in nursing homes (NHs) plays a critical role in ensuring their quality. However, the turnover of key NH leaders, such as nursing home administrators (NHA) and directors of nursing (DON), has not been studied as extensively as the retention of direct care workers. This study aims to investigate the relationship between NHA/DON turnover and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) five-star ratings. A facility-level dataset of Ohio NHs that contains star ratings, NH leadership turnover, and NH characteristics was constructed (N=789). Data was drawn from the 2018 CMS star rating data, 2017 Ohio Biennial Survey of Long-Term Care Facilities, and the Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reports. The outcome variables were the overall, health inspection, and quality star ratings. They were categorized into two groups: 1-3 stars and 4-5 stars. Two predictors were NHA turnover and DON turnover, indicating whether NHs had NHA/DON turnover in the past three years or not. Logistic regressions, including control variables, were conducted via SAS. Results show that NHA turnover is negatively associated with being 4-5-star overall star rated and 4-5-star health inspection star rated NHs. Similarly, DON turnover is negatively associated with being 4-5-star overall star-rated, 4-5-star health inspection star-rated, and 4-5-star quality-measure star rated NHs. The findings of this study highlight the importance of the distinct roles that NHA and DON turnover play in influencing NH care quality.

Presentation Objectives:

- Discuss the impact of nursing home leadership turnover on CMS five-star ratings
- Provide recommendations to enhance nursing home care quality and provide better information for long-term care consumers

**Date & Time:** Friday, March 21 @ 1:30 pm | **Location:** Room 315 | **Presentation Type:** Paper

## **Facilities Programming: A Brief Introduction for Professionals and Researchers Working in the Field of Aging**

*Lubomir Popov, PhD*

Facilities programming is about researching building users, their culture, activities, needs, and preferences. Programming provides information for design decision making. The current trend of evidence-based practice makes programming a very important phase of the project delivery process, including projects for facilities for the elderly. The purpose of this paper is to introduce researchers on aging and operators of facilities for the elderly to facilities programming, its applied research nature, and its importance for design decision making. The goal is to make both researchers and facility operators aware about the information needs of architectural designers, how building users are researched, and how the information is used by designers. One objective is to advise facility operators about the benefits of a programming study commissioned before the core design process starts. Another objective is to inform researchers on aging how they can diversify their professional engagements and gain an entry in the facilities planning business. The presentation starts with a brief introduction to facilities programming and continues with information about the most important phases and steps of the facilities programming process. The paper familiarizes researchers and operators of facilities for the elderly with the type and format of information that is collected at each step of the programming study, how it is organized, the most common research methods that are used, and the issues and problems that are habitual for this kind of inquiry.

### Presentation Objectives:

- Provide a short introduction of facilities programming
- Describe the benefits of programming
- Inform researchers how they can diversify their business by engaging in programming projects
- Inform practitioners about the importance of facilities programming and their role in the programming process

**Date & Time:** Friday, March 21 @ 1:30 pm | **Location:** Room 316 | **Presentation Type:** Paper

## **Resilience-Related Factors and Cognitive Functioning in Older Adults**

*Patrick Mese, MSW, MGS*

Cognitive impairment and the increasing risk of dementia in old age are a health concern for older adults globally. As a result, researchers have explored various interventions (e.g., physical activity, a healthy diet, sleep hygiene etc.) to maintain or improve cognitive functioning. An emerging nonpharmacological intervention to delay cognitive decline is to increase older adults' resilience. This research examined the relationships between two resilience-related factors (i.e., perception of self and perception of community support) and cognitive functioning in older adults using data from the 2015 wave of the National Health and Aging Trend Study (n = 2063). After controlling for self-rated health and relevant demographic variables (age, gender, marital status, income, education, and race/ethnicity), findings showed that resilience-related perception of community support predicted cognitive functioning among older adults (p-value=.0432). However, the resilience-related perception of self (p-value=.0687) and marital status among the demographics were not significant in predicting cognitive functioning. These results suggest that resilience-related factors may help protect older adults from declines in cognitive functioning. Interventions for older adults can be directed toward activities or programs that encourage a good support system within the community. Such interventions can

potentially mitigate isolation and social exclusion in the neighborhood that negatively impact cognitive functioning.

Presentation Objectives:

- Discuss the potential of exploring protective factors among older adults
- Explain how resilience-related factors may be helpful in designing interventions for older adults as regards cognitive functioning

**Date & Time:** Friday, March 21 @ 1:30 pm | **Location:** Room 316 | **Presentation Type:** Paper

**Symposium: 1. Community-University Partnerships Promote Intergenerational Mentoring; 2. Utilization of Person-Centered Wellness Intergenerational Programming; 3. ARts through Intergenerational Social Engagement (ARISE) Program**

*Jessica L. Krok-Schoen, PhD; Shannon E. Jarrott, PhD & Lauren Feyh, MNM*

Intergenerational (IG) programs foster relationships between generations and measure the impact of IG activities on participants. This symposium will highlight three ongoing IG programs from The Ohio State University (OSU) faculty members, Dr. Shannon Jarrott, Lauren Feyh, and Dr. Jessica Krok-Schoen. The first section of the symposium, led by Dr. Jarrott, will discuss BRIDGE2Health, which is a sustainable community project representing a partnership between university researchers, OSU Extension, and community organizations. The goal is to improve teens' and older adults' resilience and health through shared mentoring. Cuyahoga County's program was developed through efforts to build community investment, including the formation of a community advisory group, a summer health summit, and communication strategies. She will share how these initiatives evolved through the participatory action research methods. The second section, by Lauren Feyh, will discuss program expansion of GrowIN Intergenerational Community Programming and its partnerships with the Villages, long-term care facilities, and organizations/businesses in the greater Columbus, Ohio area. The final section, by Dr. Jessica Krok-Schoen, will share the quantitative and qualitative results of a five-week IG program focused on storytelling through fine arts among high school students, college mentors, and older adults. Together, these presentations will inform the audience about developing and sustaining IG programs, fostering community and institutional support, measuring processes and successes of IG programs, and ultimately promoting greater understanding and respect between multiple generations.

Presentation Objectives:

- Discuss how to create intergenerational programming with community partners
- Share preliminary results of multiple intergenerational programs including process and participant data

**Date & Time:** Friday, March 21 @ 2:45 pm | **Location:** Room 207 | **Presentation Type:** Symposium

**The Impact of Frailty on Families, Caregivers, and the Workforce: Have We Moved the Needle in The Last 25 Years?**

*Emelia D. McCuen, PT, DPT, GCS, CCS*

The phenotype for frailty was published in 2001 by Linda Fried and colleagues to operationally define the clinical manifestations of frailty. Since that time, the term frailty has been used to predict medical outcomes, morbidity, and mortality. It has also been used to educate those who interact with older adults on what frailty looks like, but what are we doing about it? What have those in the geriatric community

done to improve the lives of those who have frailty? What have we done to inform and support those who care for people with frailty? This workshop aims to explore how to use the research on frailty to improve the lives of patients and caregivers. It will give practical examples for participants to work through, aimed at improving competence in frailty assessment. The workshop will also explore the benefits of improving awareness and reducing the impact of frailty on the workforce.

Presentation Objectives:

- Compare the frailty phenotype to the client/patient populations that attendees work with
- Identify the criteria patients need to meet for frailty
- Describe strategies to improve frailty in the client/patient populations that attendees work with
- Provide resources to educate caregivers about frailty
- Assist attendees to understand their role in impacting frailty for the improvement of the workforce

**Date & Time:** Friday, March 21 @ 2:45 pm | **Location:** Room 314 | **Presentation Type:** Workshop

**Symposium: 1. Online Training for Ohio’s Mandated Reporters of Abuse; 2. Acceptability of the KINDER Intervention to Prevent Mistreatment; 3. Opening Pandora’s Box – Virtual Uncovering of Geriatric Syndromes; 4. Elder Justice for All: A Call to Action and Next Steps**

*Courtney Reynolds, MA, MSSA, LSW; Kylie Meyer, PhD; Ronan Factora, MD & Sylvia Pla-Raith, MA*

Did you know that at least one in ten older adults experiences abuse? Researchers in Ohio are working hard to develop interventions to prevent abuse and intervene when it occurs. In this symposium, the presenters will explore their impact on practices and policies locally and nationally. They will begin with a review of the elder justice research landscape in Ohio, including a description of the Ohio Attorney General’s Elder Abuse Commission and its Research Committee. Then, they will describe 3 current projects. In the first section of the symposium, Courtney Reynolds will present on an online training for Ohio’s mandated reporters of elder abuse. In the second section, Dr. Kylie Meyer will describe KINDER, an intervention for family caregivers of older adults living with dementia. In the third section, Dr. Ronan Factora will discuss findings from a project conducting virtual capacity evaluations in collaboration with Cuyahoga County Adult Protective Services. In the final section, Sylvia Pla-Raith will conclude the symposium with action steps that students, practitioners, and researchers can take to promote elder justice in Ohio.

Presentation Objectives:

- Describe three elder justice projects conducted by Ohio-based researchers
- Identify three action steps that students, practitioners, and researchers can take to promote elder justice in Ohio

**Date & Time:** Friday, March 21 @ 2:45 pm | **Location:** Room 308 | **Presentation Type:** Symposium

**Supporting Preference-Based Care in Adult Day Service**

*Olivia Ash, BS; Akwasi Gyimah, MSc; Mercy Kalu, BSW & Kate Poppenhagen, MS*

In this interactive workshop, participants will learn how to implement Preferences for Activity and Leisure (PAL) Cards, a novel communication tool to enhance person-centered care for individuals receiving long-term services and supports. The purpose of this workshop is to provide instruction on how to communicate resident/client preferences for leisure and recreation via PAL Cards. First, the

presenters will introduce the Preferences for Everyday Living Inventory (PELI), the evidence-based assessment used as the foundation of this person-centered intervention. Second, they will describe how to translate important preferences into The PAL Card communication tool. Third, they will review barriers and facilitators to implementing PAL Cards in organizations providing adult day services. Participants will have the opportunity to practice using the PAL Card materials. Experiences and strategies learned from other providers implementing PAL Cards in their community will also be discussed. The objective of the workshop is for participants to obtain background information on the PELI and clear instruction on implementing PAL Cards. Participants will gain access to the resources needed for implementation including the PELI assessment, and template to create PAL Cards. A step-by-step instructional video, example PAL Cards, sample policy, as well as a tip sheet on interviewing will also be distributed to participants.

Presentation Objectives:

- Discuss preference-based living and its impact on older adults
- Describe the tools used to assess preference-based living (physical examples of each tool will accompany this workshop)
- Provide audience members with a hands-on experience using the PELI survey.

**Date & Time:** Friday, March 21 @ 2:45 pm | **Location:** Room 316 | **Presentation Type:** Workshop



# Poster Abstracts

(alphabetized by poster title)

*Friday, March 21 @ 3:45 – 4:45 pm*

*Location: Multi-Purpose Room 228*

## **A Comprehensive Approach to Addressing Elderly Care, Aging, and Horticultural Therapy**

*Karleah Harris, PhD; Nikkita Jackson, DSW; Jonathan N. Trauth, EdD & Brooklynn Tanner*

As the population ages, addressing the needs of elderly care becomes increasingly urgent. Ensuring the wellbeing of elderly individuals is essential, and horticultural therapy has emerged as a promising intervention to enhance both their mental and physical health. This study explores the potential of horticultural therapy to empower elderly individuals by improving their quality of life, ultimately enabling them to live more fulfilling and independent lives. The researchers adopted a comprehensive qualitative approach, focusing on the integration of social engagement and community gardening within the context of elderly care in the United States. Their findings reveal that participants not only formed valuable social connections but also acquired new skills and developed a sense of camaraderie through shared gardening experiences. The study highlights the significant role that horticultural therapy can play in promoting healthy aging when conducted in safe and supportive environments. By prioritizing the holistic wellbeing of elderly individuals, horticultural therapy offers a pathway to healthier, more connected communities, and underscores the importance of innovative approaches in elderly care.

### Poster Objectives:

- Explore how integrating social engagement and community gardening within horticultural therapy can foster social connections, skill development, and camaraderie among elderly participants
- Evaluate how horticultural therapy practices influence the mental and physical wellbeing of elderly individuals
- Demonstrate the potential of horticultural therapy as a viable intervention for promoting healthy aging, emphasizing the importance of safe and supportive environments for elderly care

## **Aging in The Sex Trade: Examining The Lives of Older Sex Workers in South Asia**

*Krishnaa Nadig Nair*

This poster explores the daily realities of aging as a sex worker, albeit an exploration that hardly scratches the surface. These daily realities are situated within the public, the social, and the private domains, to comprehensively understand the multifaceted-ness of an older sex worker's life and how she navigates aging. The analysis draws on the concepts of generativity and the life course to examine how aging sex workers navigate shifting roles, purpose, and resilience in a stigmatized profession. These frameworks highlight how cumulative life experiences and social contexts influence their unique experiences of aging. By examining the nuanced realities of older sex workers' lives, this poster emphasizes the importance of gerontological inquiry that includes marginalized and often-overlooked populations. This broader perspective enriches the field and informs policies and interventions that address aging as a process shaped by resilience and adaptation within complex and dynamic contexts.

Poster Objectives:

- Present findings about aging sex workers in South Asia to open avenues for further research and discussion
- Engage with attendees to gain further insights into marginalized communities that may contribute towards deeper research

**Aphasia-Friendly Design: Perspectives**

*Jori C. Velichko, BA & Brent Archer, PhD, CCC-SLP*

Aphasia is a communication disorder that can occur following stroke or other brain injury. Aphasia can affect language skills, including reading and writing. Aphasia-friendly features to aid reading comprehension for people with aphasia (PWA) may include larger font, simple sentences, and images. The researchers aimed to conduct an analysis of the literature on aphasia-friendly design, with a focus on findings relevant to understanding PWAs' and SLPs' perspectives on aphasia-friendly resource development and implementation. A literature review of all papers including the term aphasia-friendly or universal design for aphasia in their title or abstract. This resulted in papers which describe a need for aphasia-friendly material, papers which describe the development of something aphasia-friendly, and papers which describe a part of their format as being aphasia-friendly (e.g., consent forms or testing materials). Several themes were found: 1) SLPs often feel unprepared to provide aphasia-friendly materials, 2) PWA want aphasia-friendly materials, 3) PWA do not all have the same accessibility needs, 4) Researchers want to provide aphasia-friendly materials to include PWA in their research, 5) PWA should be included in preparing aphasia-friendly materials, and 6) Environmental changes require investment at the community level (e.g., business owners providing training, city councils working with PWA, etc.). Research over the last 30 years shows that people with aphasia want to be included in decision making in their lives. For that to happen, providers need to distribute information to PWA that is appropriate for them. We need to find a way to make aphasia-friendly materials available.

Poster Objectives:

- Present findings of a literature review regarding aphasia-friendly design and perspectives on development and implementation
- Demonstrate the need for more comprehensive and actionable guidelines for aphasia-friendly material design

**Barking Up the Wrong Tree? Dog Ownership and Mental Health Through the Pandemic Lens**

*Angela L. Curl, PhD, MSW*

COVID-19 had a significant impact on people's emotional well-being, including feelings of loneliness and isolation (Lee et al., 2021; Shoesmith et al., 2020). Pandemic lockdowns and social distancing recommendations forced many people to isolate themselves from others to prevent the spread of the virus, which reduced face-to-face social interactions (Pachetti et al., 2020). However, pet dogs can provide companionship and help reduce loneliness (Bussolari et al., 2021). The current research examined the relationship between dog ownership and their owners' mental health (MH) status before (retrospective) and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Data for this study were collected using an online survey distributed through Amazon Mechanical Turk (MTurk) in February/March 2023. In order to qualify, participants had to be able to read/write in English, age 50 or older, live in the U.S., and registered with MTurk (N=144; 61.6% dog owners; ages 55-85). Mental health was assessed using self-reported measures for depressive symptoms (8-items; CES-D), anxiety (5-items; Beck Anxiety Inventory), and loneliness (11-item; UCLA Loneliness Scale). Dog owners were less lonely before

COVID than non-owners ( $t(115.12)=2.07, p=.02$ ), but not post-COVID ( $p=.30$ ). Contrary to hypotheses, dog owners reported more depressive symptoms and anxiety before and after COVID, compared to non-dog owners. OLS regression results indicate that prior MH status was a significant predictor of post-COVID MH, but dog ownership was not associated with better mental health pre- or post-COVID. These results suggest that interventions should prioritize addressing underlying mental health issues rather than relying solely on pet companionship to benefit mental health for older adults.

Poster Objectives:

- Explain how self-reported levels of depressive symptoms, anxiety, and loneliness changed from pre- to post-COVID-19
- Present results of statistical analyses that examine the impact of dog ownership on mental health before and after COVID-19

**“Breaking the Silence”: Addressing Exclusion of Incarcerated Older Adults within Gerontological Research**

*Samuel Van Vleet, MGS*

This research investigates the pervasive exclusion of incarcerated older adults from research and discussions within gerontology. While the U.S. population continues to age, little consideration is made for the unique challenges faced by the growing number of older individuals that are aging within prisons. This exclusion hinders the development of comprehensive socioecological models that consider the intricate interplay of individual, interpersonal, community, and societal factors influencing the aging process. The increased prevalence of people of color in prisons amplifies the neglect and marginalization of aging individuals within correctional settings. A gerontological duality occurs when considering older adults that are currently in prison and individuals who will age in prison with extensive sentences. Research indicates that prison environments accelerate aging, as individuals experience rapid health deterioration and limited access to age-friendly resources in these facilities. Prisons, designed for punitive measures, fail to address the unique needs of aging populations, creating a systemic cycle of neglect. The findings underscore the urgent need for inclusive research practices, policy reforms, and societal shifts to ensure the voices and experiences of aging individuals are acknowledged, considered, and integrated into discussions surrounding gerontological frameworks such as successful aging and socioecological models of aging. Failure to address this issue perpetuates a silent crisis that impacts not only individuals but also the broader understanding of aging within our society.

Poster Objectives:

- Identify the unique challenges faced by incarcerated older adults and how their exclusion from gerontological research impacts the development of comprehensive socioecological aging model
- Discuss the ways in which prison environments accelerate aging and contribute to the rapid health deterioration of older inmates, highlighting the systemic neglect within correctional facilities
- Discuss the implications of including incarcerated older adults in gerontological frameworks and propose strategies for integrating their experiences into research, policy, and societal discussions on aging

## Care Partners as Social Capital: A Narrative Review

*Grace E. Terry, MA, CF-SLP*

Social capital is a social determinant of health that is defined as the value people gain from having positive connections with others. Strong social capital means having a strong network of people who can offer a variety of knowledge and resources. Research indicates that a strong social capital leads to more positive health outcomes (Mask, 2019). Aphasia impacts communication, which is the foundation for relationships, and therefore can increase difficulty in building and maintaining social capital. Past research indicates that individuals with aphasia are at a higher risk of loneliness and social isolation (Moss et al., 2022). Immediate care partners of individuals with aphasia often act as the primary communication partner when the person's social networks dwindle following an aphasia diagnosis (Azios et al., 2021). This can lead to a decrease in not only the individual's social capital, but also the care partners social capital (Nichol et al., 2022). This poster aims to examine the literature and conceptualize the role of social capital in communicative and quality of life outcomes for persons with aphasia and their care partners. It will also discuss how social capital intersects with the role of group therapy in aphasia recovery.

### Poster Objectives:

- Summarize the ways in which care partners serve as social capital for people with aphasia
- Identify limitations that people with aphasia and their care partners may have in obtaining or maintaining social connections

## Caregiving Workload and Emotional Burden: The Moderating Role of Gender and Race

*Beatrice Oppong*

This poster examines the impact of caregiving workload on the emotional well-being of caregivers and the role of race/ethnicity and gender on this burden. A family caregiver, also called an informal caregiver, is a closely related person, such as a parent or a spouse, who provides unpaid care and assistance to an individual with cognitive decline, a disability, or a chronic condition. Caregivers undertake various duties to ensure the well-being of their care recipient. However, they are at risk of emotional burden due to higher caregiving duties. Using the National Study on Caregiving (NSOC) round 11 data, this study investigates the association between caregiving workload and emotional burden while considering the moderating effects of gender and race/ethnicity. Several control variables that could influence this relationship were also accounted for. These include age, daily hours of care, caregivers' health status, going out for enjoyment, social support, and appreciation from the care recipient. A multiple linear regression analysis was adopted in this study, and all assumptions were met. Findings indicated that a higher caregiving workload increases the emotional burden of caregivers, highlighting the need for policy reforms to decrease the overwhelming duties of family caregivers. Comprehensive educational programs focused on mindfulness activities and emotional resilience will also enhance the well-being of family caregivers. With these resources in place, their awareness should be increased to ensure effective utilization by those in need.

### Poster Objectives:

- Highlight how caregiving workload and other factors (variables) influence the emotional well-being of family caregivers
- Highlight the key implications of this study relating to caregivers and policy development

## **Changes in Life Expectancy in Ohio between 2016-2020 and 2018-2022**

*Saloni Pandey*

Life expectancy is the average number of years a person can expect to live, based on statistical analysis of mortality rates for a given population. The researchers used data from 2016-2020 to calculate life expectancy at birth, at age 65, and at age 85 for each of Ohio's 88 counties using the average number of people in each five-year age group and the average number of deaths observed in each county by each age group. There are substantial differences between counties, some of which can be attributed to individual behaviors, environmental factors, access to important goods and services (such as health care), income, and types of employment. The researchers calculated life expectancy again for each county using population and mortality data from 2018-2022, which includes the years most closely associated with COVID-19. Not all differences or deaths can be attributed to COVID-19, but there is a noticeable difference in some counties between 2016-20 and 2018-22. Some counties changed very little, but most counties (about 82 of 88) saw a decrease in life expectancy in the two-year window. The largest life expectancies decrease was 3.4 years while the largest increase was only about 0.32 years. Most of the decrease in life expectancy occurred in rural counties rather than urban counties. These differences may indicate differential risks and needs across counties.

### Poster Objectives:

- Present the life expectancy at birth, at age 65, and at age 85 for each of Ohio's 88 counties using the average number of people in each five-year age group and the average number of deaths observed in each county by each age group
- Describe the possible differential risks and different needs across counties that may occur due to differences in life expectancy

## **Combining Visual AI and Adherence Monitoring to Improve Outcomes**

*Anthony Sterns, PhD*

Tardive dyskinesia (TD) is a late-onset adverse effect of dopamine receptor-blocking medications, characterized by involuntary movements primarily affecting the mouth, though other body parts may be involved. The severity of TD varies from mild to debilitating and is usually irreversible. Despite the existence of treatments such as VMAT2 inhibitors, TD remains underdiagnosed, with only 40,000 patients treated out of an estimated 2.6 million affected in the U.S. This study demonstrates a novel, efficient, and reliable method to detect and bring TD to practitioners' attention using video-based AI. Individuals taking antipsychotic medications were enrolled in Study 1 (n=46), Study 2 (n=136), and Study 3 (n=174). Participants completed video assessments. A vision transformer machine learning architecture was evaluated by calculating the area under the receiver-operating-characteristic curve (AUC), sensitivity, and specificity compared with a reference standard of the trained raters' evaluation of TD on the Abnormal Involuntary Movement Scale. The algorithm reached an AUC of 0.89 in the combined validation cohort across Studies 1, 2, and 3. The model demonstrated strong and reliable levels of agreement, outperforming human raters. The algorithm reliably detected suspected TD, reaching higher sensitivity and specificity than trained raters using the standard assessment. The algorithm can be used to monitor patients taking medications, assess mood and other effectiveness measures, allowing scarce resources to assess identified patients and change regimen in a timely intervention and avoid crisis.

Poster Objectives:

- Share the technologies developed to measure medication adherence and the theoretical principals of correctly reinforcing medication taking through situational smart alerting
- Share the technologies developed to assess mood (depression and anxiety specifically) and adverse events using visual transformer machine learning algorithms and how they can be delivered through a smartphone app for remote patient monitoring
- Share how the combination of knowing adherence and knowing the effect on the patient has the potential to significantly improve patient outcomes in the care of older adults, individuals living with cognitive impairment, and serious chronic behavioral health diagnoses.

**Culture Change: It Also Benefits Direct Care Workers**

*Emerson H. McSparran, BA*

Within the current long-term care workforce crisis, retention of direct care workers (DCWs), including nursing assistants, personal care assistants, and home health aides, is a vital issue affecting both residential and home care. One proposed influence on retention is culture change (CC), which is a movement striving for small-scale, person-centered care. CC is often researched through quality-of-care outcomes for nursing home residents, but it appears to benefit care providers as well, potentially leading to greater retention. This study aimed to compare and contrast recent findings regarding the effect of the principles of CC on retention of DCWs across long-term care settings. A review of the literature assessed the impact of CC on DCWs, including studies within the United States from 2018-2024. The review identified the following three main domains of CC that seem most pertinent to retention among DCWs: (1) close relationships between care recipients, DCWs, and the community; (2) collaborative decision making, involving communication between interdisciplinary care teams/convoys; and (3) structural and psychological staff empowerment. Preliminary results suggest that while the philosophy of CC can support retention overall, certain CC principles may be more effective at addressing the unique strengths and challenges of DCWs in each long-term care setting. Findings support the theoretical link between CC principles and retention, but further research is needed to provide more empirical evidence, especially in settings other than nursing homes, and to investigate how these principles can be put into practice throughout long-term care to improve retention of DCWs.

Poster Objectives:

- Introduce the connection between culture change and retention of direct care workers in long-term care
- Provide evidence of the connections between certain culture change domains and the retention of direct care workers in long-term care settings
- Highlight the similarities, but also present the differences, between long-term care settings in relation to direct care worker retention

**Dementia Dynamics: Educating Tomorrow's Caregivers**

*Andrea Sensel, OTD/OTR/L; Kirsten Siefker, S/OT & Brynn Billing, S/OT*

An estimated 55 million people globally live with Alzheimer's Disease (AD) (Lock et al., 2023). AD is a neurodegenerative disease under the category of dementia. This disease causes abnormal brain changes, memory loss, and thinking impairments. The general population and many healthcare professionals have limited knowledge and understanding of dementia and how it impacts a person causing increased stigmatization of the population. Negative attitudes provoke emotional reactions, increased behavioral disturbances, and agitation in the person with dementia (Teichmann et al., 2022).



Stigmatization and lack of knowledge can lead to decreased quality of life and care including lack of support, treatments, and resources due to delayed or missed diagnoses (Zwijssen et al., 2016). Students enrolled in healthcare programs have limited understanding and skills required to manage clients with AD and support caregivers (Parveen et al., 2018). Dementia Friends USA is part of a global movement that is changing the way people think, act, and talk about dementia. It offers a curriculum designed to train and better equip healthcare professionals to increase knowledge, decrease stigma, and provide a greater quality of care for those with dementia. To promote dementia-friendly interactions the current study used the Dementia Friends training course to educate students on the signs, symptoms, and impacts dementia has on a person. Data was then collected on undergraduate healthcare students on their knowledge of and attitudes towards persons with dementia through a pre-test and post-test. Research suggests AD workshops improve the knowledge and attitudes of students (Parveen et al., 2018).

**Poster Objectives:**

- Identify the impact Dementia Friends can have in improving knowledge and attitudes toward dementia in healthcare to developing dementia-sensitive healthcare professionals
- Discuss the importance of dementia education for future healthcare professionals to provide quality care to people with dementia

**Effectiveness of an Online Resistance Training and Dietary Program for OCS on Increasing Physical Function and Self-Efficacy**

*Michael F. Beck, CPT*

Older cancer survivors (OCS) are at a higher risk of physical function impairment relative to their peers, which can lead to a decline in physical health and health self-efficacy. Online interventions targeting diet and resistance training may effectively address these needs. Determine the effectiveness of an online resistance training and dietary program for OCS on increasing physical function and self-efficacy. This ongoing study evaluates a 12-week online resistance training and dietary intervention aimed at enhancing related quality of life (HRQoL) and self-efficacy in OCS (n=70). Participants are randomized into two groups; an experimental group that focuses on resistance training and protein intake and a control group that focuses on overall health. Measures of physical function, HRQoL, and self-efficacy are collected at baseline, post-intervention, and 3-month follow-up. Preliminary analyses of 45 OCS who completed baseline and post-intervention assessments were included in this study. Overall, participants were  $70 \pm 5.8$  years of age, and 67% female. Average scores of physical functions, self-efficacy for diet and exercise, and HRQoL improved among participants over the 12-weeks. Results indicate that self-efficacy for diet was positively correlated with self-efficacy for exercise among OCS at post-intervention ( $r^2=0.46$ ,  $p=0.001$ ). Further, a positive correlation between self-efficacy for exercise and physical function was observed among OCS in the intervention group at the post-intervention ( $r^2=0.45$ ,  $p=0.04$ ). Preliminary results are encouraging and demonstrate the association between physical health and self-efficacy among OCS. Future research will measure these changes over the three assessment periods.

**Poster Objectives:**

- Discuss the effectiveness of an online resistance training intervention on older cancer survivors measured by a physical function test and a health-related quality of life survey
- Discuss the effectiveness of an online dietary training on older cancer survivors measured by a health-related quality of life survey
- Present the correlations that are seen between physical function scores and self-efficacy surveys for diet, exercise, and general health

## **Exploring the Role of Level of Education, Marital Status, and Self-Rated Health in Shaping Resilience among Resettled Refugee Communities in Ohio**

*Ahmed Danquah*

Resilience is a critical determinant of successful refugee resettlement, influencing long-term adaptation and well-being. This study explored how education, marital status, and self-rated health shaped resilience among resettled refugee communities in Ohio. Using data from the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), an online survey of 572 participants from Afghan, Bhutanese, Congolese, Ethiopian/Eritrean, and Somali communities, 476 participants were included in the final analysis. Resilience was measured using the 10-item Connor-Davidson Resilience Scale (CD-RISC-10). The sample had a mean age of 35.60 years (SD = 12.43; range: 18–95 years). The participants were male (59.45%), married or in a relationship (13.24%), and had some level of education (86.55%). Key findings revealed that higher education levels ( $p < 0.0001$ ), greater social support ( $p < 0.0001$ ), and employment ( $p = 0.02$ ) significantly enhanced resilience, while divorced, widowed, or separated participants exhibited lower resilience compared to those never married ( $p < 0.0001$ ). Variables such as age, gender, and nationality were not significant predictors. These results underscore the systemic nature of resilience, emphasizing the need for policies and programs that expand educational access, foster employment opportunities, and strengthen social support networks to enable refugees to thrive in their new environments.

### Poster Objectives:

- Define what refugee resilience means
- Discuss how level of education, marital status, and self-rated health influence resettled refugees' resilience in Ohio

## **Finding Fulfillment in New Beginnings: Exploring Life Satisfaction among Resettled Bhutanese Older Adults in Ohio**

*Isha Karmacharya, PhD(c)*

The United States, particularly the state of Ohio, has provided a safety net for a significant number of Bhutanese refugees. Previous studies have focused on mental health of Bhutanese adult refugees, predominantly concentrating on their adversities, neglecting to explore how they have thrived post-resettlement and resources that contribute to their life satisfaction (LS). This study aims to assess LS of resettled Bhutanese older adults in Ohio and identify factors influencing their satisfaction. Data were obtained from a cross-sectional survey of Bhutanese individuals aged 55 and older, residing in four major Ohio cities (Columbus, Akron, Cleveland, and Cincinnati). Snowball sampling method, facilitated by local Bhutanese organizations, was used to recruit participants, resulting in a final analytical sample size of 273. LS was assessed using Diener's five-item Satisfaction with Life Scale. Binary logistic regression was used to model the factors associated with LS. Only about one in ten older adults reported dissatisfaction with their lives. Participants who did not experience depression (aOR=0.13, 95% CI=0.03–0.53) and those with higher resilience (aOR=0.93, 95% CI=0.87–0.99) were significantly less likely to be dissatisfied with their lives. In contrast, individuals with lower social support (aOR=3.47, 95% CI=1.06–11.44) were more likely to report dissatisfaction. Despite enduring significant challenges throughout their journey from displacement and refugee camps to resettlement in the United States, a significant proportion of participants reported satisfaction with their lives. Future research should explore their experiences before and after resettlement to better understand how resettlement process impacts LS.

Poster Objectives:

- Explain the life satisfaction of resettled Bhutanese older adults from resource-based perspective
- Emphasize the need on gerontological studies among older adults with refugee and immigrant backgrounds

**Game Analysis of a Multi-Sensory Dementia Intervention**

*Laura K. Manville, BA*

A multitude of interventions have been proposed for use in care settings as part of person-centered care approaches for people living with dementia. Interactive, multi-sensory games have been designed to specifically address needs for enjoyment and engagement. While many of these therapeutic games appear to be innovative or fun, little information is available to understand how they are utilized in real-world settings. The purpose of this study was to describe the game-playing characteristics of an intervention using games in a nursing home setting. Thirty residents (mostly White females) living in one of two nursing facilities in northwest Ohio with average BIMS score of 4.5 participated in game sessions with 2-6 individuals. The games, which were played using vibrant, life-like images projected on a flat surface that react to hand/arm movements, provided participants with opportunities for physical, sensory, cognitive, and social stimulation in a group setting. The 91 separate sessions, each lasting about 30 minutes, were videotaped for analysis. Participants attended 2.8 sessions per week on average. Analysis of videotapes revealed that physical/sensory games were played most often. In the most popular game, paint balls are virtually smashed to create a work of art. There were instances when game facilitators misjudged the preferences of participants, however, by either playing games too long or ending a game too soon. Additional findings related to the game-playing characteristics will be presented that may be useful to researchers and care professionals who are contemplating the integration of innovative, therapeutic games as part of person-centered care.

Poster Objectives:

- Describe how therapeutic games are used with persons with dementia in a real-world long-term care setting
- Assist attendees to apply knowledge from this study to other interactive, multi-sensory interventions and therapeutic games they may incorporate into person-centered care

**Harnessing Emotions: How Personality Influences Instrumental Emotion Regulation Motives and Creative Performance Outcomes in Older Adults**

*Michelle M. Moore, BA*

Research on emotion regulation in older adulthood often highlights a shift toward pro-hedonic motives, where positive mood is prioritized for immediate well-being. However, older adults may also be motivated to instrumentally regulate emotions (IER), potentially employing contra-hedonic strategies (prioritizing negative mood) for useful long-term gains. While research is limited, recent studies suggest that older adults, like younger adults, may prefer contra-hedonic strategies in contexts where such affect may be useful. However, what remains is determining whether these preferences lead older adults to actually experience (and implement) contra-hedonic affect for instrumental purposes. Furthermore, individual differences in personality may influence how emotions are regulated instrumentally. According to the Affective Certainty Model, individuals high in extraversion/neuroticism may derive some instrumental benefit when their specific affective states align with their personality profile (e.g., extraversion + positive, neuroticism + negative). The present study aims to: (1) assess whether older adults deploy pro and contra-hedonic affect states in the service of instrumental motives, and (2)

examine how personality influences specific boundary conditions of IER in line with the Affective Certainty Model. Participants aged 60+ will complete a Big Five personality assessment, be randomly assigned to a mood induction condition (angry vs happy), manipulation check (PANAS+), and Alternative Uses Task for measuring IER goal pursuit. It is predicted that personality will moderate the effect of mood on divergent thinking performance, with participants rating high in extraversion performing better when in a positive affective state and individuals rating high in neuroticism performing better in an angry affective state.

Poster Objectives:

- Discuss the intersection of emotion regulation and personality in older adulthood
- Discuss the implications of emotional utility in older adulthood

**Insight for Occupational Therapy Evaluation: Understanding Psychosocial Factors Impact on Fall Risk in Older Adults**

*Holly Markley, OTD, OTR/L; Ashlyn Coleman, SOT & Anna Youngless, SOT*

Psychosocial factors may contribute to an increased fall risk in older adults. Literature suggests certain personality traits (i.e. neuroticism), cognitive beliefs (i.e. fear of falling) and psychological factors (i.e. anxiety and depression) relate to habits/routines leading to increased falls. Addressing psychosocial factors is within occupational therapy (OT) scope of practice, but the importance of addressing these factors during OT evaluation has not been emphasized. This study aimed to investigate relationships between psychosocial factors and overall fall risk among older adults residing within Independent Living Facilities (ILFs) to help individuals understand how psychosocial factors may contribute to increased falls and best support OT plans of care. This mixed methods, non-experimental study collected data through surveys and semi-structured focus groups. Participants were recruited via convenience sampling from two local ILFs in Hancock County, Ohio (n=14). The survey measured personality type (extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, emotional stability, and openness to experiences) and habits/routines that may contribute to fall risk. The focus group questions obtained information on current habits/routines and personal beliefs regarding falls and fall prevention. The quantitative results demonstrated significant relationships between specific fall risk behaviors and overall fall risk. The qualitative feedback highlighted the presence of major themes including poor habits, positive and negative personal beliefs, fear of falling, and positive habits contributing to increased fall risk among older adults. These findings demonstrate the importance of increasing awareness and education of psychosocial factors among older adults, the general population, and occupational therapists to better prevent falls within the geriatric population.

Poster Objectives:

- Identify psychosocial factors that may negatively and/or positively impact fall risk among older adults
- Analyze the use and importance of these psychosocial factors within fall prevention strategies among various professions

**Integrating Intergenerational Programming as a Relationship-Building Strategy**

*Diana Nguyen*

Relationships play a central role in the well-being of older adults. Intergenerational programming offers a unique opportunity to enhance these relationships and expand the relationship network of older adults beyond their immediate caregivers and family members, enriching the social fabric of their lives. In this

session, attendees will learn how they can start implementing The Legacy Project, our intergenerational programming, into their own communities. The Legacy Project (TLP) is a national non-profit organization connecting college students with older adults in their local communities for mutual storytelling and legacy preservation in an effort to combat the loneliness and social isolation epidemic as well as empowering and ensuring that older adults' legacies are documented and celebrated for years to come. TLP has four publications, capturing 50 life stories, and has facilitated the creation of 75+ intergenerational friendships. TLP is also the recipient of Generations United's Program of Merit distinction, the U.S. benchmark for intergenerational programs. Allow us to show you our impact and support us as we spread this initiative across the nation!

Poster Objectives:

- Describe what inspired three young women in their early 20s to start an aging related initiative
- Present a data-backed understanding of the value of intergenerational relationships and community programming
- Discuss TLP's approach to building intergenerational relationships and preserving life histories
- Explain how to implement TLP's intergenerational programming into attendees' own communities

**Leveraging Smart Technology to Monitor Fall Risk among Community-Dwelling Older Adults**

*Lyndzee (Marissa) Horn & Julia Buschbacher, MGS*

The leading cause of injury among older adults is falls. Given that falls threaten independence of older adults, there is a critical need for innovative strategies to address fall risk supporting older adults to remain in their home. Smart technology devices offer one option to monitor fall risk and limit caregiver burden. This presentation will share findings from a multi-methods study that explored community-dwelling older adults' perceptions of using smart technology within the home to monitor fall risk. A sample of 53 older adults, with an average age of 74 were recruited through one, large social service agency in Ohio. Following consent, older adults participated in one-on-one demonstrations of a smart technology bathmat designed to measure user's balance and postural alignment. Following the demonstration, participants were administered the 10-item System Usability Scale (scale: 0-100) and engaged in semi-structured interviews to provide their perceptions of the device and recommendations to improve usability. System Usability Scale scores ( $M = 75.0$ ;  $SD = 13.45$ ) indicated that the smart device had moderate usability. The qualitative analyses revealed that the device could be improved by decreasing device weight, enhancing the accuracy of measurements, lowering the cost of the device, and adapting the charging location for easier access. While smart technology is well-received by older adults, modifications are needed to ensure it can be implemented in the home environment. This work underscores the importance of including older adults in tailoring current smart technology devices that support fall prevention within the home setting.

Poster Objectives:

- Effectively communicate results to attendees with implementation science scope to address next steps in addressing fall risk through smart technology
- Address aging in place through smart technology and the insight this study adds to that topic

## **Living in the Moment: An Experience Sampling Study on Age Differences in Discrete Positive Emotions**

*Julia I. Brooks, BA*

In general, affective experience tends to improve with age, such that older adults report experiencing more positive and less negative emotions than their younger counterparts. However, little is known regarding age differences in the experience of specific positive emotions. Pleasant emotions have been treated as a single category, ignoring potentially essential differences in the specific positive emotions that young and older adults experience. Taking an appraisal theory approach, we propose that these different positive emotion states (joy, awe, curiosity, excitement, gratitude, hope, calmness) vary in key motivating characteristics, which may be differentially relevant to the goals of young and older adults. Drawing upon previous work of affective scientists, we developed a predictive matrix that delineates characteristics of specific positive emotional states, including antecedent context and consequent behavior activation for seven discrete positive emotions. Finally, drawing on lifespan developmental and appraisal theories of emotions, the researchers hypothesize the relative frequency with which younger and older adults experience each positive emotion. They intend to utilize experience sampling methodology to gain information on emotional experiences close to their occurrence to increase accuracy. The information this study may provide could help optimize clinical and practical experiences for both young and older adults by understanding the trajectories of these positive emotional states.

### Poster Objectives:

- Inform attendees about the current empirical understanding of how the emotional experience is expected to change as we develop into older adulthood
- Provide attendees with an understanding of the study, how it is being conducted, and the current findings at the time of the presentation
- Provide insight into how the study addresses the gaps in emotion and aging literature, and explain some avenues for future research that this study provides.

## **Medical Aid in Dying: Empowering End-of-Life Decisions Through Gerontological Insights**

*Kennedy J. Berner, MSHI*

Medical Aid in Dying (MAiD) occurs when terminally ill, competent individuals self-administer life-ending medication prescribed by their healthcare provider. This practice represents a relatively new, complex, and evolving component of end-of-life care. As part of Advance Care Planning (ACP), MAiD decisions benefit from gerontological insights. ACP facilitates a structured process for documenting end-of-life preferences, easing the emotional burden on families, and aligning care with individual values. Future Time Perspective (FTP) offers insight into how limited perceptions of time lead individuals to prioritize meaningful closure and acceptance of mortality, while Socioemotional Selectivity Theory (SST) highlights the focus on emotionally meaningful goals and relationships as priorities shift with aging. Together, these frameworks illuminate how autonomy, emotional priorities, and cultural beliefs shape MAiD decisions. Barriers to MAiD, including legal restrictions, disparities in access, and the underutilization of hospice and palliative care, will also be examined. Additionally, strategies to empower individuals and families in making informed decisions will be discussed, such as promoting death literacy, advocating for policy reform, and fostering culturally sensitive practices that support autonomy and dignity in end-of-life care. This exploration underscores the need for a more balanced approach to MAiD, one that considers legal, emotional, and cultural factors, while also bridging the gap between different perspectives to empower individuals in their end-of-life choices.

Poster Objectives:

- Explain Medical Aid in Dying (MAiD) as an emerging component of Advance Care Planning (ACP) and how Socioemotional Selectivity Theory (SST) and Future Time Perspective (FTP) help us understand decision-making in end-of-life care
- Describe the challenges related to MAiD, including legal and cultural barriers, and outline strategies to empower individuals and families in making informed end-of-life decisions

**Meeting the Demand: Addressing Gaps in Hospice Care Training for Rehabilitation Centers in Ohio**

*Nadia M. Bingham*

As hospice rates continue to rise, many rehabilitation centers have begun to provide hospice care to meet the increasing demand for this essential end-of-life care. However, the specialized needs of hospice care often remain unaddressed in existing training programs. Despite well-intentioned efforts, significant gaps in training and resources can compromise patient care. This poster investigates this issue by analyzing the training requirements mandated by state board programs for rehabilitation centers in Ohio and comparing them to those required for dedicated hospice care facilities. This poster highlights critical gaps not covered by current mandated trainings, emphasizing the urgent need for enhanced education in hospice care. These findings underscore the importance of improved training for hospice providers. Future research should explore effective methods for implementing comprehensive hospice care practices.

Poster Objectives:

- Discuss gaps in training programs related to hospice care
- Discuss the complexity that arises when administering hospice care

**Mental Health Disparities among Unhoused Older Adults in Ohio: A Gerontological Perspective**

*Rejina Akter, MGS*

Homelessness, defined as the lack of stable and adequate night-time residence, affects 653,104 individuals in the United States, nearly half aged 50 and above, with 29% aged 55 or older. In Ohio, 12,000 people were unhoused during the 2023 Point-in-Time count, a 6.9% increase from 2022. For older adults, homelessness is often intertwined with mental health disparities, exacerbated by systemic barriers and accumulated disadvantages. This poster examines these challenges in the state of Ohio, utilizing three gerontological concepts: the life course perspective, cumulative disadvantage theory, and intersectionality. The poster explores mental health disparities and proposes targeted solutions to improve outcomes. The study focuses on Ohio's four major cities—Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, and Toledo—using national data to provide insights into the prevalence of mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, and PTSD among unhoused older adults. It evaluates existing mental health services and identifies barriers to care, including systemic, social, and logistical challenges. Unhoused older adults in Ohio experience disproportionately high rates of mental health problems compared to their housed peers. Current services fail to address age-specific needs such as cognitive decline, mobility issues, and chronic illnesses. Barriers including fragmented healthcare systems, stigma, and transportation challenges exacerbate disparities. Recommendations include expanding mobile mental health services, adopting an age-focused "Housing First" model, and promoting community engagement to reduce social isolation. A holistic, geriatric-centered approach can improve mental health and quality of life for this vulnerable population.

Poster Objectives:

- Discuss the prevalence of mental health conditions, such as depression, anxiety, and PTSD, among unhoused older adults in Ohio's major cities, using insights from national and local data.
- Analyze systemic, social, and logistical barriers to accessing mental health care and propose targeted, age-specific solutions to improve mental health outcomes for this vulnerable population
- Raise awareness among policymakers about the unique challenges faced by unhoused older adults and advocate for the adoption of geriatric-centered policies and programs to address these issues
- Foster dialogue and collaboration among researchers, practitioners, and community stakeholders to develop holistic approaches that reduce mental health disparities and improve quality of life for unhoused older adults

**Older Adults' Quality of Life in Retirement**

*Abigail L. Stark, MA*

The study that informed this poster examined older-adult retirees' quality of life in retirement as predicted by retirement resources, perceived experiences of ageism, and personal growth initiative. Based on Dawis and colleagues' Theory of Work Adjustment, Hesketh and colleagues' (2011) Retirement Transition and Adjustment Framework (RTAF) served as the theoretical foundation for this research. Retirement resources (i.e., physical and mental health; financial resources; social support; motivational, emotional, cognitive resources) were hypothesized to directly predict quality of life through both perceived experiences of ageism (positive and negative) and personal growth initiative (PGI, i.e., the tendency to view obstacles as opportunities for growth). The study was the first of its kind in that it combined both personal and environmental factors (i.e., PGI and perceived experiences of age-based discrimination) as potential explanatory variables for the relationship between older adults' retirement resources and quality of life. Results of the study, as presented in the poster, indicate that there are various relationships between resources, PGI, perceived experiences of ageism, and quality of life in retirement. Specifically, the intentional behavior component of PGI and perceived experiences of negative ageism were found to mediate the relationship between resources and quality of life. The poster includes the limitations of the study, directions for future research, and implications at personal, systemic, and therapeutic (i.e., relationship/therapeutic interventions between older-adult clients and their therapists) levels. Future research would do well to explore therapeutic interventions that could assist in decreasing the negative impacts of ageism and strengthening older-adult retirees' PGI.

Poster Objectives:

- Explain the hypothesized links between RTAF and the various relationships between retirement resources, PGI, perceived experiences of ageism, and quality of life
- Share findings of the study to offer potential future directions of research as well as preliminary therapeutic interventions for older-adult retirees from a positive psychology perspective

**Paws with a Cause**

*Erreannau Zellous, MA*

Despite many interventions designed to facilitate caregiving, relatively little research has explored the diverse role that pets can play in the caregiving process. This poster builds on existing literature and practice by examining three key perspectives: the Biophilia hypothesis, Socioemotional Selectivity theory (SST), and the Convoy Model of social relations, to understand animals' emotional, structural, and psychological contributions to caregiving. These theories connect to highlight the human-animal bond's influence on emotional well-being, caregiving networks, and person-centered care approaches.



The Biophilia hypothesis calls attention to the innate human connection to animals, portraying them as "portable nature" that promotes calming environments and delivers therapeutic benefits, particularly in restrictive settings. SST shows why older adults prioritize animals as low conflict, emotionally fulfilling companions, offering meaningful bonds that align with their preference for rewarding stable relationships later in their life. Finally, the Convoy Model highlights animals as dependable aspects, providing consistent support during transitions, filling gaps in caregiving networks, and encouraging resilience. Integrating these three perspectives can bridge theory and practice, providing realistic applications for animals in settings that aim to reduce social isolation, alleviate agitation in dementia care, and enhance connections in assisted living. Addressing practical barriers alongside this proposed implementation—like policy restrictions and caregiving costs—calls for inclusive strategies to incorporate animal-assisted care for our aging population. By acknowledging animals as care partners, this poster presents an inclusive caregiving model that enhances autonomy, psychological stability, and quality of life for older adults while advocating for collaborations across research, policy, and practice.

Poster Objectives:

- Promote inclusive care strategies by integrating animals into community-based caregiving networks
- Advocate for comprehensive policy reforms that support pet-friendly housing, subsidized caregiving costs, and institutional animal-assisted care programs to enhance older adults' quality of life and caregiving experiences
- Encourage families to view animals as integral parts of caregiving networks, promoting autonomy and stability
- Foster intergenerational engagement by incorporating pets into activities that connect older adults with their families and communities

**Perceptions of Air Quality in Older Adults Compared to Younger Adults in Ohio**

*Shakira Azeez Salami, BS*

Older adults are more sensitive to poor air quality than younger people. Recent studies have even found a relationship between fine air particles and the incidence of dementia in older adults. Perceptions of air quality influence decisions to protect personal health and well-being. This descriptive study examined air quality perceptions in Lucas County, Ohio and compared self-reports of air quality with the EPA's air quality index (AQI). Additionally, the perceptions of older adults (51 to 86 years old) were compared to middle-aged (35 to 50) and younger (18 to 34) participants. Survey questions were adapted from two previous research studies and distributed online. The 181 participants were primarily white, female, college graduates. Most participants perceived the air quality in August 2020 to be 'unhealthy for sensitive groups' or 'moderate', whereas 65% of the days were categorized as 'good' based on the AQI. Older adults relied on TV or radio reports to determine air quality while other participants checked the sky, smelled the air, or used a weather app. Participants reported they were very likely or likely to stay inside if they knew the air quality was "bad" or "unhealthy". Although older and middle-aged adults reported not overfilling or "topping off" their gas tank to reduce air pollution, younger adults used a bicycle or walked. The public, and particularly vulnerable populations such as older adults, should have accurate information to determine their potential health risks from poor air quality versus from socially isolating indoors or being inactive.

Poster Objectives:

- Describe the air quality perceptions of older adults and how they compare to younger adults
- Apply the findings to other older adults within Ohio to keep this vulnerable population accurately informed and able to determine their potential health risks

## **Provider Perspectives on What Helps and Hinders Adult Day Services in Ohio**

*Molly E. Noble, MS*

Adult Day Service (ADS) centers offer a spectrum of services and supports to meet the needs of older adult participants and their caregivers in their communities. There is a growing need to understand the struggles and successes experienced by ADS providers, particularly in the years following the Covid-19 pandemic. This research seeks to understand those factors that help and hinder ADS providers in Ohio, as perceived by the providers themselves. Two focus groups with 17 providers were conducted. Focus groups transcripts were reconciled for accuracy and coded using thematic analysis to identify facilitators and barriers. Focus group content was further analyzed by coding for constructs of the Inner Setting domain of the updated Consolidated Framework for Implementation Science (CFIR). ADS providers mentioned having consistent staffing, diverse funding sources, increased reimbursement rates, and community partnerships as factors that helped them provide ADS in their communities. Identified challenges include difficulty recruiting and retaining staff, inappropriate and inconsistent client referrals, insufficient reimbursement relative to the cost of operating, inadequate and unsafe transportation, and lack of awareness and misunderstanding of ADS in their communities. Both facilitators and barriers faced by ADS providers in Ohio were largely contextualized within the CFIR's Inner Setting constructs of relational connections, culture, communications, and available resources. Findings point to avenues for future research to highlight strategies that maximize facilitators and minimize barriers in the ADS setting, particularly as demand for home and community-based services and supports continues to grow.

### Poster Objectives:

- Identify trends in the barriers and facilitators currently faced by adult day service providers in Ohio
- Understand how the updated Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research can serve as a useful framework to highlight the importance of local context in the adult day setting

## **Raising Awareness of Older Women's Sexuality among College Students**

*Annaliet Delgado-Rodriguez*

Social media has created a digital space for 'graninfluencers' who share unique perspectives on aging, but their portrayal may perpetuate overly positive stereotypes. These limited portrayals may lead to or reinforce harmful stereotypes and expectations about aging. Sexuality and sexual experiences are a crucial part of older womanhood and the life of older LGBTQIA+ adults. However, in Western society, sexuality is generally not considered vital to older adults, especially older women and older women who identify as a sexual minority. Social media can bridge knowledge gaps by showcasing diverse populations, such as older adults and those who identify as LGBTQIA+, highlighting intersections among their identities. Research shows young adults with minimal exposure to older women on social media hold vague and often negative stereotypes about aging women. Alarmingly, there is limited awareness about the sexuality of older lesbian and bisexual women among college students. Hence, given the continued growth of the older adult population, educating college students about the realities of older womanhood and sexuality is crucial. Considering that representation on social media may be especially impactful for young adults, it may serve as a key source of information. This focused literature review emphasizes the need to raise awareness of older women's sexual experiences among college students, irrespective of sexual orientation, to combat inaccurate stereotypes and promote accurate understanding. It also establishes a foundation for future research to explore the impact of social media on college students' attitudes about and understanding of older women's sexuality and sexual behaviors.

Poster Objectives:

- Highlight the impacts of aging on older women's sexuality
- Inform attendees about the impact that social media can have on older women's sexuality
- Raise awareness about the benefits educating college students on the impacts aging, sexuality, and older womanhood
- Highlight the impact of LGTBQIA+ membership, specifically lesbian and bisexual, can have on older women's sexuality

**Recreational Reading**

*Gillian I. Anderson, MS*

The use of icons in conjunction with other aphasia-friendly principles is known to bolster reading comprehension in persons with aphasia-based alexia. However, it is unknown whether the type of icon is an important variable in comprehension. The current study investigated the influence noun and verb icons have on reading comprehension of short stories in persons with aphasia-based alexia.

Additionally, the researchers explored participants' self-perceived satisfaction with their current reading abilities. An adapted alternating treatment design across multiple baselines was employed to examine the effect aphasia-friendly short stories have on reading comprehension in persons with aphasia-based alexia. Multiple baselines across three participants were randomized and the study had predetermined points in time. Each participant read five stories included verb icons and 5 stories included noun icons. Self-perceived satisfaction of reading abilities was measured. Visual inspection and statistical analyses of the data revealed that all participants demonstrated increased comprehension compared to baseline when icons were introduced to the text. Two of the three participants displayed separation between the two alternating treatment designs: noun and verb, with the use of nouns showing higher reading comprehension than verbs. The participants' self-reported feelings towards their reading skills were significantly lower than the reported average. These results provide preliminary evidence that noun icons improved reading comprehension more so than the use of verbs in two of the three participants. All participants benefited from the presence of icons aligning with existing literature.

Poster Objectives:

- Share about aphasia-friendly reading materials for care partners and people with aphasia
- Describe noun versus verb icon support for reading comprehension
- Describe self-perceived confidence levels in reading for people who have had a stroke

**Refugee Grandparents Experiences During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

*Nikkita Jackson, DSW; Karleah Harris, PhD & Jonathan Trauth, EdD*

Several refugees have moved to the United States from different countries, looking for a better way of life. As a result, there is a great need for service to help them survive. However, during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, St. Leo offered service to Burundi and Guatemala refugees. This study used a case study approach to examine how these refugees at St. Leo Parish survived the pandemic and recession. Some of the participants were grandmothers and grandchildren. The results showed that grandparents at St. Leo experienced challenges when they first arrived in America. Granddaughters had to live with their grandmothers because their mothers had to work, and some parents had to switch shifts to cover childcare so both parents could work. Another issue was helping adult children assume responsibility for their aging parent's health care when they experience difficulty navigating the health care system themselves and convincing them of the value of being vaccinated. Additionally, many

refugee families relied on the parish food pantry because the local jobs they received did not pay well or offered great benefits or hours.

Poster Objectives:

- Educate attendees about the plight of refugee grandparents and their experience during Covid-19
- Identify the affects Covid-19 had on older adults living in urban and rural communities
- Explore current policies surrounding refugee rights and global responsibility in addressing refugee crisis
- Examine ways to assess and evaluate access to resources for older adults and families

**The Impact of Music Therapy on Treatment for Older Adults with Dementia: A Scoping Review**

*Jenae R. Fisher*

Alzheimer's disease and related dementias impact a growing number of older adults. With no known cure and increased risk related to targeted pharmaceutical drugs, research has indicated a growing need for nonpharmacological interventions. Music therapy has extensive research due to the benefits of music on health, wellbeing, and cognitive function. This study aims to analyze current research on the use of music therapy on older adults with dementia and address the prevalence of these programs in long term care facilities (LTCF). For this study, scholarly articles were identified using keywords such as Alzheimer's disease, dementia, music therapy, and LTCF. After excluding articles that did not align with the study, twelve articles were selected for use. The prevalence of music therapy was found by analyzing websites of the top nursing homes in Ohio. Eight companies were looked at, which included 104 facilities. Current research shows that music therapy can positively impact cognitive functions and bring a decrease in behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia (BPSD). A personalized experience in music therapy can show beneficial results, and combined interventions have been explored but require further research. The advantages of music therapy are widely recognized, but its absence from long-term care facilities presents a significant issue. A small minority of facilities searched mention music as an activity or form of therapy, and even less have specific training and programs. There is a need for staff training on the benefits of personalized music experiences, and an increase of music therapy programs in LTFCs.

Poster Objectives:

- Discuss current research regarding the benefits of music therapy on older adults with dementia
- Discuss current prevalence of music therapy in long term care facilities
- Suggest solutions for more widespread use of music therapy, education for nursing home staff, and personalized music therapy experiences for residents in LTCFs

**The Relationships between Social Isolation, Loneliness, and Multimorbidity among Older Americans**

*Krishna P. Sapkota, MHS*

This cross-sectional study assessed the relationships between social isolation, loneliness, and multimorbidity among Americans aged 65 and above using the Health and Retirement Study (2018 wave). The study measured multimorbidity based on a count of eight diseases reported by respondents (high blood pressure, diabetes, cancer, lung disease, heart disease, stroke, psychiatric problems, and arthritis) with the presence of diseases ranging from 0-8. Social isolation was measured using four variables related to marital status, monthly religious attendance, monthly club/group attendance, and weekly contact with family/friends. Loneliness was measured by the mean score of the revised UCLA loneliness scale, using 11-items, each with 3-point response choices. The mean ranged from 1.0 to 3.0,

with higher scores indicating greater loneliness. The analytical sample size of the study was 3225, and Poisson regression was used to assess the relationships. The mean age of respondents was 74 years, and 55% were female. Almost 75% of older Americans reported multimorbidity, 30% had high social isolation, and the mean loneliness score was 1.51. A one-unit increase in the loneliness score increased the expected number of morbidities by 14% (Incidence Rate Ratio [IRR]=1.14, p-value<0.001), but social isolation was not statistically significant (IRR=1.01, p-value=0.694). The prevalence of multimorbidity and its association with loneliness among older Americans warrants interventions to reduce multimorbidity and loneliness among this population and to improve their quality of life. Although social isolation was not significantly associated with multimorbidity, policymakers, and service providers should consider social isolation and loneliness together when planning interventions.

Poster Objectives:

- Discuss the prevalence of multimorbidity, their co-occurrence pattern, and the status of social isolation and loneliness among Americans aged 65 and above
- Discuss whether loneliness and social isolation are associated with multimorbidity among Americans aged 65 and above

**Unequal Cognitive Aging: Selective Effects of Education on Episodic Memory and Executive Function Across Ethnic Groups**

*Van Duong, BS*

Evaluating cognitive protective factors is critical for the rapidly-growing elderly population in the U.S. This study investigates the impact of formal educational level on specific cognitive functions—episodic memory (EM) and executive function (EF)—in a diverse elderly population, addressing gaps in prior research focused on general cognitive decline. The study was a case-control study using data from 259 non-demented elderly participants (65 years and above, Clinical Dementia Rating score (CDR) < 1) from the UCD ADRC cohort. EM and EF of each participant were evaluated by the Spanish and English Neuropsychological Assessment Scales. Statistical analysis revealed that higher education significantly correlates with better EM (p<0.001) and EF (p<0.001). Participants without cognitive impairment (CDR = 0) had higher educational levels compared to those with questionable cognitive impairment (CDR = 0.5) (p<0.05). Hispanic participants exhibited lower education levels (p<0.001) and reduced EF (p<0.01) compared to other ethnic groups but no significant differences in EM. The findings suggest a stronger link between education and EF than EM, especially among certain ethnic groups. While prior research has focused on global cognitive outcomes, this study highlights EF as more sensitive to educational disparities, particularly in the Hispanic population. The absence of EM differences across ethnicities, despite educational disparities, suggests the protective effect of education may be domain-specific. This underscores the need for targeted interventions in cognitive aging, especially for underrepresented populations, where educational inequalities disproportionately affect EF. Future directions include evaluating whether lower educational level is a risk factor for declining cognitive function in later life.

Poster Objectives:

- Evaluate the impact of educational attainment as a protective factor in preserving episodic memory and executive function in an elderly population
- Discuss the differences in episodic memory and executive function in the elderly among ethnic groups and whether these differences are associated with educational disparities

## **Untangling the Impact of Paid Home Care/Aide on Long-Term Care Transition for Older Adults with ADRD: A Scoping Review**

*Obinna Odo, MSW, MSG*

People who live with Alzheimer's Disease and other related dementias (ADRD) at home in the community often require care that may be challenging for primary caregivers to provide. Paid home care/aide is critical for people with ADRD because it can reduce unmet needs and extend continued community living. This scoping review utilized Arksey and O'Malley's (2005) framework to examine the impact of paid home care on the transition to long-term care for older adults living with ADRD. Eight databases were searched and Rayyan QCRi(c) was used to review screened abstracts before full-text evaluation. A total of 10 peer-reviewed articles published between 2004-2024 were included in the analysis. The researchers found that paid home care/aide is associated with personalized care, cost-effective alternatives, reduced care burdens for family caregivers and lower chances of transition to long-term care facilities. Further, the findings suggest higher needs for paid home care/aide among older adults with ADRD on Medicaid, unmarried, those requiring help with instrumental activities of daily living (IDALs) and activities of daily living (ADLs). Also, racial nuances in the need for paid home care/aide is associated with aging-in-place preferences, perception of out-of-pocket expenses in long-term care facilities, financial resources available to families of older adults with ADRD and estimation of healthcare needs. This study highlights the need to expand and implement eligibility criteria and accessibility for paid home care/aide given differences in the income spectrum, race, healthcare needs and aging preferences of older adults with AD/ADRD.

### Poster Objectives:

- Discuss the role of paid home care/aide in delaying the transition to long-term facilities for older adults with ADRD
- Discuss how these findings can inform policies on expanding eligibility and access to paid home care services, especially for Medicaid recipients, unmarried, and those requiring ADL/IDAL support
- Discuss the implications on aging in place preferences, financial resources, and perceptions of out-of-pocket expenses, emphasizing the need for more tailored policy and resource allocation that consider these dimensions

## **Who among Us: A Scoping Review on the Recognition of Alcohol Use Disorder in Older Adults**

*Bailee Brekke, MGS*

The prevalence of substance use among older adults aged 60 and over has been steadily increasing, with nearly 7.1 million older Americans having a substance use disorder (SUD). Older adults misuse a variety of substances including prescription drugs, illicit drugs, and alcohol; alcohol being the most used. More than 12% of older adults reported binge drinking, but only 5.6% older adults in the U.S. have an alcohol use disorder (AUD) diagnosed. This discrepancy is largely due to lacking recognition, assessment, and treatment of older people with AUDs. Lacking recognition can be present at multiple levels, ranging from the individual to the broader community. As a result, a scoping review of the literature was conducted to better understand recognition of AUDs among older adults. Four databases were utilized, and additional citations were identified through online searches and reference list reviews. The researchers used the Social Ecological Model (SEM) to analyze 36 articles to further understand how different levels of influence impact the recognition of AUDs. The model includes five levels: intrapersonal/individual, interpersonal, institutional/organizational, community, and policy. Preliminary results suggest that lacking recognition is present within all levels of the model for older adults with AUD, but the majority of the literature only provides recommendations in institutional/organizational

settings for medical professionals. Implications of this study indicate this problem is widespread and interventions should bring awareness of AUDs and provide recommendations to all levels, especially those outside the realm of healthcare.

Poster Objectives:

- Bring awareness to the needs of older adults with alcohol use disorders (AUD)
- Discuss the implications of lacking recognition across the 5 levels of the Social Ecological Model (SEM)
- Provide recommendations for how to move forward to ensure this problem is addressed in all settings

# Ohio Scholars in Aging Program



**Department of  
Aging**

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**Scholars in Aging**

The Ohio Scholars in Aging Program provides scholars of all academic backgrounds with the opportunity to learn about aging-related policy-making, establish professional contacts, and gain career knowledge and skills in the field of aging. Since 2013, over 150 students from about 20 colleges and universities representing over 30 different majors, have participated. The program is a collaboration between the Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) and OAGE.

The program is open to emerging professionals pursuing a variety of careers. This includes students in gerontology, long-term care administration, engineering and product development, health and allied health professions, social and behavioral sciences, etc. who are engaged in practice- or research-based projects in a community-based organization that serves older adults.

This year's program includes undergraduate and graduate students who are enrolled in an accredited educational institution in Ohio. Each student completed an internship or worked with a university and/or community organization to complete a project of at least 45 hours that positively impacts older adults. Scholars also participated in four learning sessions, two of which were in-person meetings in Columbus and two that were virtual. They attended an all-day experience at their local Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and prepared a poster presentation about their project for presentation at this year's OAGE conference.

Scholars who completed these requirements received a stipend, a certificate of completion, conference presentation experience, and the honorable designation of being a Scholar in Aging for 2025. Information about the 2026 Scholars Program will be released in the fall.

*For more information about this year's scholars' poster presentations, check out pg. 49 below.*

**If you have any questions or would like more information about the Ohio Scholars in Aging Program, please reach out to Natalie Haslage at [nhaslage@age.ohio.gov](mailto:nhaslage@age.ohio.gov).**



# OAGE Scholars in Aging Posters

(alphabetized by scholar last name)

*Thursday, March 20 @ 4:30 – 5:30 pm*

***Location: Room 201***

The 2024-2025 Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) and OAGE Scholars in Aging class will present their posters during this special session:

**Adedayo Adeagbo**, *Kent State University, Doctorate in Medical Sociology* – “Golden Echoes: Reframing Aging Through Achievements, Legacies, and Personal Triumphs of Older Adults”

**Patrick Arp**, *The Ohio State University, Bachelor in Biomedical Science* – “Developing a Student-Led Memory Café at the Golden Buckeye Center for Dementia Caregiving”

**Elisabeth Baende**, *Bowling Green State University, Bachelor in Human Development and Family Science* – “Effects of Music on Older Nursing Home Residents”

**Julia Brooks**, *University of Akron, Doctorate in Psychology of Adult Development and Aging* – “Living in the Moment: An Experience Sampling Study on Age Differences in Discrete Positive Emotions”

**Anna Eiser**, *Ohio University, Bachelor in Child and Family Studies* – “A Comparison of Social Engagement Levels and their Impact on Well-being Among Nursing Home Residents in Different Socioeconomic Settings”

**Cecilia Glancy**, *The Ohio State University, Bachelor in Health Science* – “Intergenerational Quality of Life Improvement Lab”

**Faminaz Karazha**, *Clark State College, Registered Nurse Degree* – “Empowering Caregivers: Enhancing Home Care Training for Family Caregivers in Ohio”

**Carly Richardson**, *Ohio University, Bachelor in Child and Family Studies* – “Exploring the Aging Experiences of Ohio's Older Latinos”

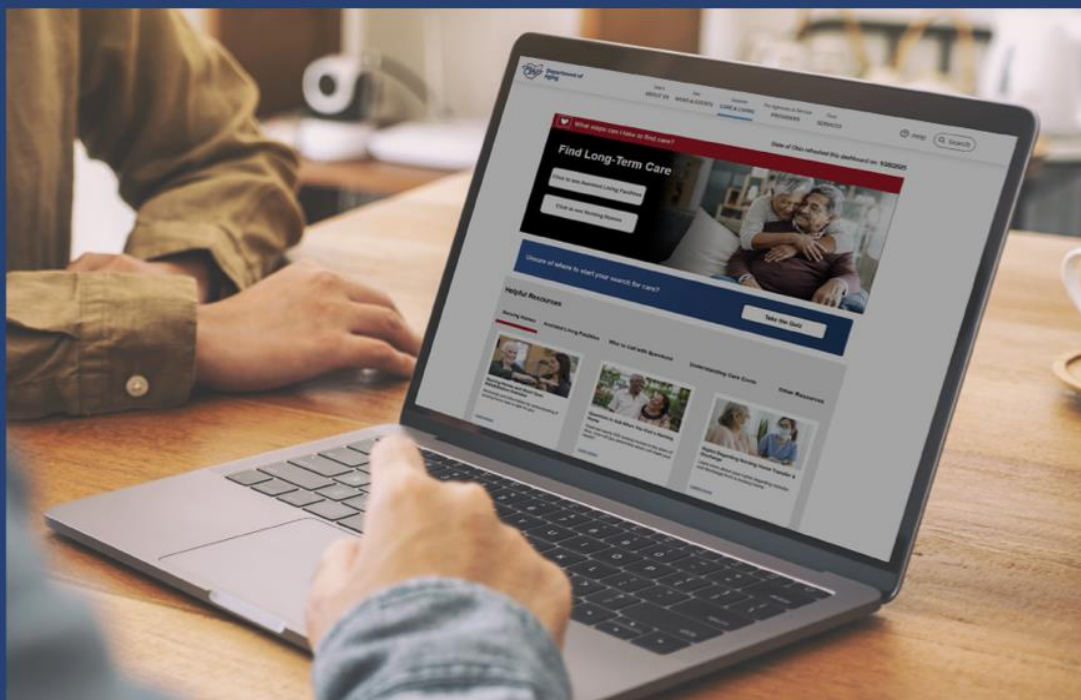
**Lirisha Tuladhar**, *Miami University, Master in Gerontological Studies* – “Age-Friendly Oxford: The Blue Shirt Bunch”

**Jenna Wagner**, *Youngstown State University, Bachelor in Dietetics* – “Growth Strategies for the Vivo Center: An Intergenerational Perspective”

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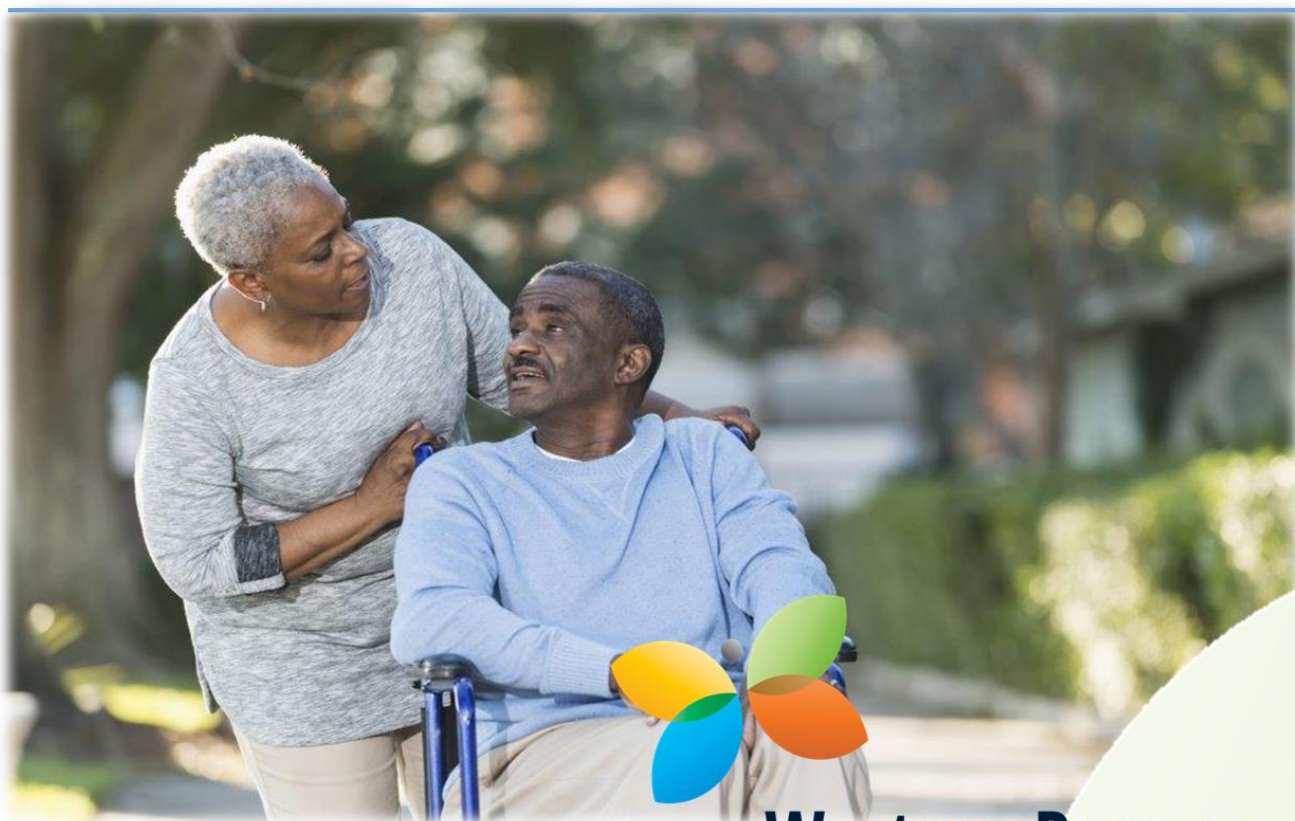


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- Home-Delivered Meals
- Information & Referral
- PASSPORT
- Transportation

For more information call:

216.621.0303 or 800.626.7277

or visit: [www.areaagingsolutions.org](http://www.areaagingsolutions.org)

Serving Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain and Medina Counties.

Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging provides choices for people to live independently in the place they want to call home.



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Otterbein Pemberville's continuum of care gives you control over your retirement journey. Start with independent living and seamlessly transition to higher levels of care if needed, including assisted living, and skilled nursing. Enjoy an active lifestyle now while feeling confident you'll have the right support as your needs change.

### INDEPENDENT LIVING

Enjoy maintenance free living while experiencing campus amenities and activities. Patio Homes and ranch style Apartments with outdoor spaces available for those 55 and over.

### THE OAKWOOD ASSISTED LIVING

All private suites designed with kitchenette, private bath, housekeeping and dining included.

### LONG STAY NURSING & MEMORY CARE ACTIVITIES

Enjoy hours of meaningful activities modeled after the Milestones Memory Support Program.

### SHORT TERM REHAB

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WHEN YOU NEED IT.**

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[otterbein.org/pemberville](http://otterbein.org/pemberville)

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## WHAT WE DO & HOW WE CAN HELP

The Alzheimer's Association provides resources to families facing Alzheimer's and dementia and to professionals working with older adults, including:

### FREE SUPPORT SERVICES

- Care Consultations
- Caregiver Support Groups
- Community Education
- Brain Health Presentations

### PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

- Curriculum Review
- Alzheimer's Association®essentiALZ® Training and Certification
- CMEs



For local resources, please call the Northwest Ohio Chapter at 419.537.1999.

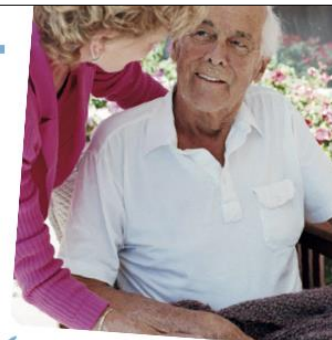
24/7 Helpline: 800.272.3900 | alz.org



## Know someone needing long-term care services at home?

It's easy to help them learn more about their options by using the Area Agency on Aging District 7's (AAA7) online referral tool.

The AAA7 can help you or someone you know remain at home and in the community with resources and services such as: personal care, meals/nutrition, homemaking, personal emergency response system, transportation, home modification, medical equipment, adult day service, legal assistance, care management, Medicare counseling, caregiver support, health/wellness programs, information and referral, and much more.



Simply scan the code to access our online referral form, find it on our website at [www.aaa7.org](http://www.aaa7.org), or call us at 1-800-582-7277.

Serving the following counties in Ohio: Adams, Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton.





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**Optimal Aging Institute**

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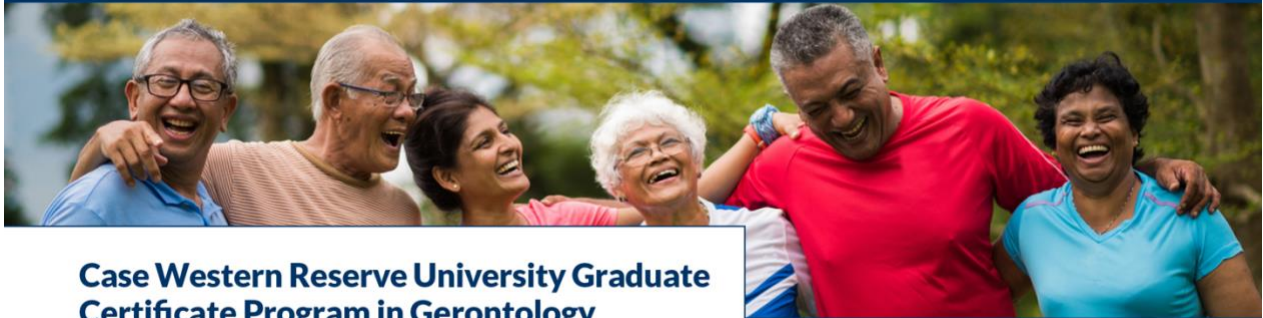
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The University Center on Aging and Health, with the approval of the Case Western Reserve University Faculty Senate, has developed a 12-credit-hour **Graduate Certificate Program in Gerontology**. The Program is intended to help meet the academic and career needs of graduate students and employed professionals in a wide variety of disciplines.



For more information, please visit our website or email [ucah@case.edu](mailto:ucah@case.edu)

<https://case.edu/nursing/ucah/graduate-certificate-program>



## Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging is proud to support the 2025 OAGE Conference.

COAAA helps older adults and individuals with disabilities live independently and safely in their homes for as long as possible. If you need help in the home, or if you're caring for a loved one, we have the experience and knowledge to connect you to the resources and services you need.

**COAAA is your connection to care.**



Your Connection to Care

800-589-7277

[www.coaaa.org](http://www.coaaa.org)

COAAA serves Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Licking, Madison, Pickaway, and Union counties.

# Silver Sponsors



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Dedicated to our healing ministry, CHI Living Communities offers many safe senior living options, including Independent Living, Assisted Living, Skilled Nursing and Rehab, Memory Care and Adult Day services.

Our core values of compassion, inclusion, integrity, excellence, and collaboration call us to put forth our personal and professional best each day.



Learn more about all of our services and amenities at [CHILivingCommunities.org](http://CHILivingCommunities.org).



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You don't want to land just anywhere for your first post-college position. You want to join a team where you can immediately make a positive impact on the lives of older adults. At Council on Aging - one of southwestern Ohio's largest and most respected non-profits - you'll have this chance. We are committed to diversity and respect all team members' unique personalities, backgrounds and experiences. When it's time for your job search, we hope you'll take a look at all we have to offer.



4601 Malsbary Road  
Blue Ash, OH 45242  
(513) 721-1025  
[www.help4seniors.org](http://www.help4seniors.org)

Scan for videos and more!





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**Direction Home Akron Canton is here to connect you and your loved ones with supports to age independently.**

- Home and Community Resources (like meals, transportation & more!)
- Alzheimer's and Dementia Resources
- Family Caregiver Support Program
- Screening/Eligibility
- FREE In-home Consultation



**877-770-5558**  
**screening@dhad.org**



**www.dhad.org**



**OHCA**  
OHIO HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION

The Ohio Health Care Association (OHCA) proudly represents over 1,300 providers of assisted living, home care, hospice, ID/DD services, and skilled nursing care across the state. Since 1946, OHCA has been the trusted voice for long-term care, advocating for quality, innovation, and reduced regulatory burdens.

As Ohio's *largest* long-term care association, we offer education, resources, and advocacy to empower providers and industry partners.

▶▶▶ *Join Us*

With shaping the future of care and ensuring the best for Ohio's most vulnerable citizens.

Visit [www.ohca.org](http://www.ohca.org) to learn more.

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**We're improving the lives of older adults through education, research, practice and service.**

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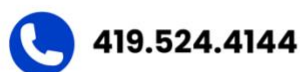
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**Grow** with us.

**Age** with us.



Helping older adults and persons with disabilities live safely and independently in their communities.



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Ohio  
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[www.ocfch.org](http://www.ocfch.org)

Working to serve and support individuals with dementia, their care partners, caregivers, and the community throughout Ohio.



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Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging offers two interactive, self-guided online courses to train mandated reporters on identifying and reporting adult abuse. Proper training helps professionals across various fields recognize maltreatment and take action to protect vulnerable adults.

**MODULE 1:  
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ABUSE**

**MODULE 2:  
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REPORTING ABUSE**

**This training is just \$10 for Module 1, \$15 for Module 2 or both for \$20.**  
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Contact [ANetraining@benrose.org](mailto:ANetraining@benrose.org) for more information.

[www.institute.benrose.org](http://www.institute.benrose.org)



## Invest in your future

Earning a graduate degree can **increase your salary by up to 90% compared to just a bachelor's**, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP WITH BGSU

[bgsu.edu/graduate](http://bgsu.edu/graduate)



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## VISION CENTRE

Leadership Development for Aging Services

We are committed to fostering collaborations and offering resources to prepare future leaders for impactful careers in senior care.



- ✓ Catalyst for engaging senior-living providers, academics, and associations
- ✓ Expand partnerships to address workforce development in aging services
- ✓ Foster lasting, mutually beneficial partnerships
- ✓ Provide insight and transparency throughout development phases

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**April 16-17, 2026**

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