Social Engagement Among LGBTQ+ Older Adults: Successful Programs and Strategies

April 13, 2023
Webinar Instructions

Audio Options
- Use your computer speakers, OR dial in using the phone number in your registration email.
- All participants are muted.

Questions and Answers (Q&A)
- You can submit questions for the panelists at any time during this presentation. On the Zoom module on the bottom of your screen, click the Q&A icon, type your question in the box and submit.

Chat Feature
- The Chat feature allows webinar attendees, the host, co-hosts and panelists to communicate for the duration of the webinar.
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USAGing

- USAGing represents and supports the national network of Area Agencies on Aging and advocates for the Title VI Native American Aging Programs that help older adults and people with disabilities live with optimal health, well-being, independence and dignity in their homes and communities.

- www.usaging.org
Overview of engAGED

• National effort to increase social engagement among older adults, people with disabilities and their caregivers
• Administered by USAging
• Funded by the U.S. Administration on Aging, which is part of the Administration for Community Living
• Broad-based Project Advisory Committee
• www.engagingolderadults.org
Presenters

Lauren Pongan (she/her)
National Director, Diverse Elders Coalition

Sherrill Wayland (she/they)
Senior Director of Special Initiatives and Partnerships, SAGE

Lisa Knoll
Chief Executive Officer, Aging Ahead
- **FOUNDED IN 2010** to ensure that the unique needs and perspectives of diverse elders would be heard when and where it mattered.
- **SIX ORGANIZATIONS** representing racially and ethnically diverse people; American Indian and Alaska Native; and lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer/questioning and transgender (LGBTQ+) people.
- **ADVOCATES FOR POLICIES AND PROGRAMS** that improve aging in our communities.
Aging Ahead is one of 10 Area Agencies on Aging in Missouri. We have been providing supportive services in St. Louis, St. Charles, Franklin and Jefferson counties since 1973.

Adults 60 and older count on Aging Ahead to provide nutritious meals, connection to resources and supportive services like Meals on Wheels, Community Centers, Caregiving Services, Community Options Consulting and Case Management.
SAGE’s National Resource Center on LGBTQ+ Aging (NRC) is the country's first and only technical assistance resource center aimed at improving the quality of services and supports offered to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer+ (LGBTQ+) older adults.

The NRC offers educational resources meant to assist you in learning the best ways to create an inclusive, safe, and welcoming environment for your LGBTQ+ older adult population.
• 20% of LGBTQ+ people avoid medical care due to fear of discrimination.
• 41% of LGBTQ+ older adults report living with a disability.
• Many fear having to re-closet as they age to access services.
• LGBTQ+ older adults twice as likely to live alone as they age and less likely to have children.
• SAGE study found 60% of LGBTQ+ older adults report lacking companionship and 50% feel isolated.

2014 estimates indicate upwards of 3 million LGBTQ+ people age 55+ growing to 7 million by 2030.

https://www.sageusa.org/resource-posts/the-facts-on-lgbt-aging/
LGBTQ+ people have higher rates of caregiving than general population (1 in 5 vs. 1 in 6)

May be estranged from family and traditional caregiver supports

Often rely on family of choice for caregiving
Unique Challenges

Legal/Policy Issues
- Families of Choice often lack legal recognition
- Not all partners have married

Family Conflict
- LGBTQ+ people may be caring for unsupportive family members
- LGBTQ+ people may be cared for by unsupportive family members
More economic insecurity among LGBT adults – including food insecurity

More LGBT rented vs owned homes

More pronounced economic disparity among Asian, Black, Hispanic, and Multiracial LGBT age cohorts than White LGBT age cohorts.

Black and Hispanic LGBT people who reported living in poverty report food insecurity, difficulty paying bills, expenses and rent.

More reports on anxiety and depression among LGBT people than straight/cisgender people.

More LGBT people report being prescribed medication for mental health.

More LGBT people report needing help from mental health professional, but not getting it.

Source: U.S. Census Household Pulse Survey (July 2021–August 2022)
Note: Bolded values indicate LGBT people are statistically different from straight/cisgender people.
Support through SAGE

Phone/Video Call Support Program

sageusa.org
Supports through SAGE

Digital Financial Wellness Program with instant access to tools and resources you can use today.

sageusa.org/SAGECents
Support through SAGE

SAGE National LGBT Elder Hotline
877-360-LGBT (5428)

SAGE Línea Nacional de Apoyo para adulto mayor LGBT
877-360-LGBT (5428)
LGBTQ+ older people are diverse and live in every region of our country, from urban neighborhoods to rural counties—and everywhere in between.

SAGE is expanding to enable an ever more inclusive community-focused approach and increase capacity to reach more BIPOC, TGNB and rural elders and organizations, among other historically marginalized populations.
Support through SAGE

Caregiving in the LGBT Community

National Resource Center on LGBTQ+ Aging Caregiving Resources

www.lgbtagingcenter.org/caregiving
Finding an LGBTQ+ Inclusive Long-Term Care Community

theLEI.org

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN FOUNDATION

sage | Advocacy & Services for LGBTQ+ Elders

We refuse to be invisible®
Creating more welcoming care for LGBTQ+ elders

• Skilled nursing facilities
• Health care organizations
• Assisted living communities
• Hospice and palliative care
• Long-term care communities
• Home health providers
• Anyone providing services to older adults

www.sageusa.care
Critical Need to Strengthen Community Engagement

The lack of family supports, ongoing stigma, discrimination - leads many older LGBT people to ask the question:

Who will support me as I age?
Community Engagement

How can Area Agencies on Aging and other Community Organizations get started with outreach to LGBTQ+ communities?
“Awareness and First Impressions--To what extent has our agency created an environment that visually shows it welcomes the LGBTQ community?”

Download this readiness checklist at:

LGBTAgingCenter.org - LGBTQ Inclusive Services Readiness Checklist: A Self-Assessment for Area Agencies on Aging
Community Engagement

What if staff and volunteers are reluctant to engage in LGBTQ+ outreach and services?
Community Engagement

How do we know if we have LGBTQ+ older adults in our service area?

How do we know what supports they may need?
LGBTQ SURVEY

Aging Ahead is committed to making diversity and inclusion a part of our organizational DNA. Together, we continue to build an inclusive culture that encourages, supports, and celebrates the diverse voices of those in our community. Please take a moment to help us learn more about the LGBT+ community we serve by completing this brief survey. Thank you for your time. We are here for you!

FILL OUT THE SURVEY
Community Engagement

How can aging organizations find partners at the local/state level to work with in support of LGBTQ+ outreach and services?
Community Engagement

How important is it to incorporate LGBT volunteers to be active in their own communities?
“Volunteers who support their own peer groups have a big impact, helping to reduce feelings of social isolation and mistrust of service providers. They are often the bridge that people in marginalized communities need to connect with the critical services and support they need” – Lydia Franklin, Aging Ahead Volunteer Coordinator
What actions can you take over the next week, month, or year - to reduce social isolation through greater outreach and services in support of older LGBTQ+ people and caregivers?
Thank you

Lisa Knoll
lnoll@agingahead.org
www.agingahead.org

Sherrill Wayland
swayland@sageusa.org
www.sageusa.org
www.lgbtagingcenter.org
engAGED Resources

• New! A manual on Implementing Hybrid Programs
• Updated! A re-launched and updated Community Awareness Toolkit
• Other resources:
  – Social Engagement Innovations Hub
  – Tips for holding Virtual Events manual
  – Videos
  – Consumer brochures
• Monthly newsletter and blog
• www.engagingolderadults.org
Commit to Connect

• Aim is to connect people living with isolation with programs and resources to build the social connections they need to thrive
• Fostering a nationwide network of champions who are committed to addressing social isolation and loneliness
  • Online discussions
  • Communities of Practice
  • Community of Interest webinars
  • Peer Networking opportunities
  • Newsletter and resources
• Funded by ACL
• USAging serves as the Coordinating Center
• committoconnect.org
Upcoming Opportunities

Webinar: Supporting Independence and Inclusion through a Community Participation Measure: A University and CIL Collaboration
   • Friday, April 21, 1:00-2:30pm ET

Peer-To-Peer Exchange: Outreach Strategies for Social Engagement Programs
   • Wednesday, April 19: 1:00-2:00pm ET

To register visit: www.committoconnect.org/events
Register Now: engAGED and Commit to Connect Social Engagement Virtual Summit

• This two-day virtual event will be held May 9 and 10, from 1:00-4:00 pm ET.
• More information on the event and how to register can be found on the engAGED website.
Questions and Discussion

Please submit your questions or comments through the Q&A.
Thank You!

• Please complete the survey which will be displayed in your browser after Zoom closes. There is also a brief 3-month survey.

• The recording will be available on www.engagingolderadults.org.
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- info@engagingolderadults.org