

## **NJFA 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference The How To's for Aging Well**

### **Speaker Bios**

#### **Dr. Emily Greenfield**

Emily Greenfield is an Associate Professor at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. Since joining the Rutgers faculty in 2007, her research, teaching, and administrative service has focused on fostering leadership for an aging society. She is a research expert on age-friendly community initiatives, aging-in-place supportive service programs, civic engagement in later life, and the long-term health effects of social inequalities in childhood. For the past four years, Dr. Greenfield has been leading a community-partnered research project on the development of age-friendly community initiatives in northern New Jersey. Dr. Greenfield's keynote presentation will address why long lives matter in New Jersey and how local communities matter in people's experiences of later life. Her research highlights how age-friendly community initiatives provide a "package" for increased responsiveness to population aging and the implementation of highly cross-disciplinary age-friendly solutions that go beyond aging. Furthermore, Dr. Greenfield will discuss how the development of age-friendly community initiatives in New Jersey provide a unique leadership opportunity for aging services providers and address how aging services providers can become involved through professional affiliations, as well as through their private lives. Because of funders, age-friendly leaders, and the work of Dr. Greenfield, there is a growing network in New Jersey to support individuals who are engaged in this work.

#### **Dr. Jeanne Koller**

Jeanne Koller is an Instructor and serves as the Program Coordinator for the MSW Aging & Health Certificate Program. Dr. Koller teaches courses related to aging and health and courses in the advanced clinical curriculum. Prior to academia she had over 25 years of clinical social work practice experience specializing in aging, grief and loss, and issues related to the LGBT+ community. She currently serves as a member of the American Society on Aging's Editorial Board; Chair for the Rutgers Advisory Council on Aging; Chair for the Central NJ Chapter of Radical Age; and is a Trustee on the Board for the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey (VNACNJ) Community Health Centers. She has been an active presenter on the topic of ageism and issues related to aging in the LGBT+ community.

#### **Christine Newman**

Christine Newman, LSW: is the Director of Community Outreach and Volunteer Engagement for AARP New Jersey. In this role she works to advance AARP's social mission of fighting for and equipping the 50+ in NJ with tools and resources to live their best lives; specifically, around AARP's core areas of: support for family caregivers and financial security. She also leads AARP NJ's state-wide work around Livable Communities and Age Friendly initiatives, with a focus on engaging and empowering local communities and volunteers to effect positive social change where they live.

**Dr. Jenny Dunkle**

Jenny Dunkle is an Assistant Professor of Social Work Stockton University and Faculty Research Scholar at the Stockton Center on Successful Aging. Jenny specializes in culturally competent aging services, environmental justice, and qualitative research. She has conducted research on LGBT older adults and has authored and co-authored a number of journal articles, book chapters, etc.

**Dr. Katie York**

Katie York is the Director of Senior Services/Lifelong Montclair for the Township of Montclair and has worked in the field of aging for over 15 years. Lifelong Montclair is Montclair's aging in place initiative, which Dr. York has been overseeing since 2014. In 2015, Montclair became the second community in New Jersey to join AARP and the World Health Organization's Network of Age-Friendly Communities

**Ann Lippel**

Ann has acted as a catalyst for positive change for Montclair seniors. She joined the SCAC Board 8 years ago & has been Chair for past 4 years. Typically working on the macro level, she has incorporated communication technology to improve SCAC outreach & data acquisition, advocated for & seen public policy changes; increased visibility of Montclair's Senior residents & encouraged Senior volunteerism.

**Elizabeth Davis**

Elizabeth Davis is a licensed clinical social worker and assisted living administrator who, in 1990, founded a non-profit organization, Geriatric Services, Inc., and began managing Bright Side Manor, a residential facility that has been providing a home for seniors in Teaneck since 1916. At the time, Bright Side Manor was housing 50 residents. After completing a \$5 million construction project in 2003, Bright Side Manor met the standards for licensure as an assisted living facility. Its capacity increased to 65 residents and it is now the only assisted living facility in Bergen County that is truly affordable and specifically targets low- and middle-income older adults.

**Colleen Diskin**

Colleen Diskin is a veteran journalist who served in multiple reporting and editing roles, including more than a decade on the "health team" of The Record/northjersey.com, primarily responsible for all news and feature stories on the "aging" beat. Through that role, and in a more recent role as consultant to Age-Friendly Teaneck, Diskin has a firm grasp of the age-friendly mission and a deep understanding of how state and local policies impact on older adults' ability to age in place in their communities. As a Teaneck resident who has volunteered in schools and community organizations, Diskin also has become deeply aware of the lack of

awareness many suburban residents have about the needs of older adults, or of what their own needs will be as they age.

**Jeanne Martin**

Jeanne Martin has been the Director of Meals on Wheels North Jersey since January 2005. Jeanne oversees the daily operation of Meals on Wheels with three part-time employees and over 500 volunteers. Under her leadership the program has added 4 new meal kitchens by partnering with area hospitals and nursing homes. Meals on Wheels has profited enormously from her collaborative relations with other organizations and food pantries in Bergen County.

**Jodi Murphy**

Jodi Murphy is a Council Member in the Borough of Westwood 2019 where she serves as a liaison to Sustainable Westwood, the Department of Public Works and the Shade Tree Committee. Jodi is also Assistant Program Manager, Westwood for All Ages 2018-2019 where her responsibilities included social media marketing, event coordination, newsletter editor, marketing, promotion, and outreach.

**Dr. Carolyn Bradley**

Dr. Carolyn Bradley is an Associate Professor of Social Work and the MSW Program Director at the School of Social Work at Monmouth University, West Long Branch, NJ. At Monmouth, Dr. Bradley teaches primarily in the clinical concentration in the MSW program. Her research interests are in LGBT aging, spirituality and addiction recovery. She maintains a small private practice in clinical social work specializing in addiction recovery, marital therapy and lesbian and gay issues.

**Bianca Mayes**

Bianca Chanel Mayes is a dedicated public health advocate for the health and wellness of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) community. In this role, she is responsible for developing and training LGBTQ cultural competency for healthcare professionals, senior housing developments, and more. Bianca's career has been centered around general healthcare for vulnerable populations. She worked several years at Atlantic Health System as a Health Educator and Research Associate for Community Health and Population Health Sciences. She attended Montclair State University and holds a Master of Public Health with a concentration in Community Health Education.

**Lynette Sheard**

Lynette Sheard is the Director of the Mental Health Players which is a highly successful, interactive community education program. It is the longest-running program of its type in the

state. Volunteers are trained to depict realistic scenarios involving mental health and addiction issues. These presentations provide audiences with a dynamic way to receive basic education about mental illness, addiction and other relevant challenges. The mission is to increase awareness, decrease stigma and break the silence. She has worked with the Mental Health Association for over 13 years as a senior employment specialist, job coach and a Career Connections Employment Research Institute trainer. She was awarded APSE's Employment Professional of the year for her work with individuals with disabilities and staff development trainings. She is certified by Mental Health America as a trainer of Mental Health First Aid for adults, older adults and youth. She also trains community service providers in Wellness Recovery Action Planning, and Hearing Distressing Voices

**Diane Vitillo**

Diane has worked in the field of physical rehabilitation for over 25 years as an Occupational Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant. Her certifications in the field of Living and Aging in Place allow her to educate her clients and their caregivers about home modification strategies and SMART home technology solutions that can be used to maximize the client's short- and long-term goals.

**Kim Cole**

Kimberly Cole is a national award-winning financial education presenter. She began her career with Navicore Solutions in 2002 as a certified credit counselor. Within 2 years, Kimberly went on to become a certified housing counselor and a financial education presenter for Navicore Solutions. Shortly after, she became a supervisor in the credit counseling department and eventually followed her passion of financial education and public speaking into the role of community engagement manager.

**Barbara O'Neill**

Barbara is a Distinguished Professor and Extension Specialist in Financial Resource Management Rutgers Cooperative Extension. In her role as an Extension Specialist, Barbara provides state and national leadership for educational programs and publications on health finance and personal finance topics for adult consumers, youth, and agricultural producers, conduct personal finance research, and maintain a comprehensive personal finance