

Morning Keynote: The Age-Friendly Ecosystem



Jane Carmody, DNP, MBA, RN, FAAN, is a Senior Program Officer at The John A. Hartford Foundation, a national private foundation dedicated to improving the care of older adults. As Senior Program Officer, Dr. Carmody works with Foundation leadership and staff to guide and support grant-funded initiatives in the United States in three priority areas: Age-Friendly Health Systems, Family Caregiving, and Serious Illness and End of Life. Her portfolio of grants includes programs to create age-friendly public health systems, strengthen community-based services for older adults, disseminate dementia care programs and resources, and further develop and promote standards and best practices in emergency, surgical, and home-based hospital care of older adults.

Dr. Carmody has held significant leadership positions with health care systems prior to joining the Foundation, including Executive Director of a large regional health system's home health care and hospice services, Hospital Chief Nursing Officer (CNO), System CNO for a health care system and Chief Clinical Leader for a large national home health care and hospice company. She earned a doctorate in nursing practice (DNP) from Rush University (IL), an MBA from Creighton University (NE), a social work degree from the University of Nebraska-Omaha and a diploma in nursing from Mercy College in Des Moines.

Dr. Carmody has national certification in executive nursing practice (CENP) from the American Organization of Nurse Leaders (AONL) and a board certification in nurse executive-advanced from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). The American Academy of Nursing (AAN) inducted Dr. Carmody as a Fellow in 2021 for her significant contributions to health care and the profession.

Lunch Keynote: The Time is Now: Planning for the Future



Melissa Chalker, MSW, is the Deputy Director of the Division of Aging Services, NJ Department of Human Services. Melissa joined state government in March of 2021. Previously, she was the Executive Director of New Jersey Advocates for Aging Well (NJAAW), formerly known as New Jersey Foundation for Aging (NJFA).

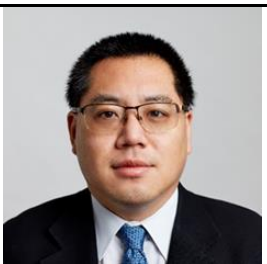
During her 12 years with NJAAW, Melissa was instrumental in developing and launching New Jersey's first Elder Economic Security Index (EESI), which examined what older adults and elder couples need to age in place with dignity. She also has helped shape public policy on such issues as senior housing, transportation for seniors, elder abuse and senior hunger.

Melissa also had previous work experience in long term care, medical case management and managed care. Melissa earned her MSW degree from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, School of Social Work. She also serves as an adjunct professor for the Rutgers School of Social Work MSW program. She earned her BSW from Alvernia University in Reading, PA.

Aging in Place: An Inter-Agency Holistic Approach to Reaching Under-Served Older Adults



Melissa Zeidler, Esq., joined Disability Rights NJ in November 2021 as Manager of the Community Inclusion team. She began her legal career as a staff attorney at Nassau Suffolk Law Services in Long Island, providing free civil legal services to low-income residents with cancer diagnoses. She then moved to the Urban Justice Center's Mental Health Project in NYC representing low-income clients with mental health concerns who were seeking federal disability benefits. Most recently, she was the Director of the Disability Advocacy Project at Brooklyn Legal Services, managing a team of attorneys and paralegals representing low-income clients with various medical and mental health diagnoses who were seeking federal disability benefits. She earned her JD from Penn State, Dickinson School of Law. Admitted to the NY Bar, Melissa is awaiting admission to the NJ Bar.



William Lim, Esq., is a Staff Attorney in the Community Inclusion team at Disability Rights NJ. From 2008 to 2013, William was a Deputy Attorney General in the NJ Attorney General's Office, where he was counsel to the State Board of Medical Examiners. He also was General Counsel at the New Jersey Reentry Corporation, which served the needs of the formerly incarcerated, and has worked in private practice, primarily as a healthcare and commercial litigator. William earned his JD from Fordham University School of Law.



Christopher Plaugic, MSW, is an older adult social worker, currently working with Jewish Family Service of Central NJ. Christopher earned his master's degree in social work from Rutgers University in May 2022. He is a US Army veteran and a licensed EMT and NJDOH Case Investigator/Contact Tracer.



Jatasha Sharif, MSW, is the Program Coordinator of the Advocate Alliance for Aging Adults (4A) project between the Elizabeth Coalition to House the Homeless (ECHH), Jewish Family Service of Central NJ and Disability Rights NJ. She began her career with ECHH in 2014 after earning her master's degree in clinical social work from Rutgers University. Jatasha started at ECHH as an intern for the Hospitality House transitional housing program, and later became Program Coordinator, Office Manager and Advocacy Administrator. A Newark native, Jatasha is a freelance artist, writer, and author, and serves as Board Vice President for Women of Wellness of NJ.

Asset Mapping - The Somerset & Bergen County Projects



Joanne Fetzko, MSW, is the Executive Director of the Somerset County Office on Aging and Disability Services (12+ years). Joanne is a graduate of Rutgers University, School of Social Work, and earned a Master of Social Work with a concentration in Administration, Policy and Planning. She has a post-master's certification in Advanced Gerontology. Joanne serves on several committees, including the Age-Friendly Communities (Somerset County) and New Jersey Association of Area Agencies on Aging (NJ4A).

Walter C. Lane, AICP/PP, is the Director of Planning at the Somerset County Planning Division. He is responsible for the county's planning efforts, the Agriculture Development Board, Cultural and Heritage Commission, Regional Center Partnership of Somerset County, and the county's Green Leadership Hub and Energy Council. Walter is a licensed New Jersey Professional Planner and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners. He is on the Executive Committee of the Somerset County Business Partnership and is co-chair of both the Sustainable Jersey Transportation and Land Use Committee, and the Obesity Task Force of Healthier Somerset. A graduate of Cook College, Rutgers University, he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Policy.



Karen J. Alexander, MPA, has 30+ years of experience implementing accessible public transit, human service transportation and aging in place programs. She helped launch Access-A-Ride in NY and worked at NJ TRANSIT in Accessible Services. After leading Parsippany, Caldwell and Verona LIVE programs, Karen authored, "How Can We Help Older Adults Age in Place in Montclair?" a feasibility report for the development of Lifelong Montclair. She became Managing Director of NJTIP @ Rutgers in 2013, and in 2021 co-authored "Understanding the Mobility Needs for an Aging New Jersey Population" for the NJ DOT. A Certified Assistant Living Administrator, she also is Vice-Chair of the NJ State Rehabilitation Council. Karen earned her Master of Public Administration degree from Columbia University.



Davit Topchishvili, MA, has been working as a Planning Analyst and Coordinator of Federal and State Aid at the County of Bergen, Department of Human services, Division of Senior Services, since 2021. He joined the division in 2017 and worked as a program monitor for four years, providing program reviews to correct deficiencies and assisting with understanding how to measure program outcomes. As a Planning Analyst, Davit is responsible for the division's strategic planning; identifying the needs of served populations, conducting studies, surveys, and needs assessments; presenting reports, and recommending uses of federal, state or private foundation aid. Davit earned his master's degree in public policy and international affairs from William Paterson University.



Althea Pestine-Stevens, PhD, MPAff, has been working in the age-friendly world since 2017. Their doctoral dissertation for the School of Social Welfare at University at Albany, SUNY, was on interorganizational collaboration in an age-friendly county initiative using social network and qualitative analyses. Dr. Pestine-Stevens manages Age-Friendly North Jersey, through which leaders from 16+ communities and counties convene to learn together and connect on mutually important topics. They continue to research community gerontology and related topics and have published/presented on age-friendly community responses to COVID-19, collaboration in age-friendly initiatives, social engagement among older adults, Villages, and more. They also earned a Master of Public Affairs degree from the LBJ School at the University of Texas at Austin, where they focused on program evaluation and nonprofit studies.

Best Practices in NJ's Age-Friendly Efforts – Updates on the Progress of Age-Friendly Efforts at Local, County or State Level



Janet Sharma is Coordinator of Age-Friendly Englewood and a member of the newly formed Governor's Age-Friendly Advisory Council. She was CEO of the Volunteer Center of Bergen County for 22 years and is currently President of Flat Rock Brook Nature Association in Englewood.



Shannon Doherty Lyons is a Research Scientist with a master's degree in environmental medicine and is a Community Engagement Core (CEC) Associate. As a CEC Associate, Shannon has focused on outreach and engagement regarding environmental health issues in our partner communities. She established a partnership in the Borough of Fair Lawn to develop and host a community research survey with their new age-friendly initiative. Shannon has played an integral role as a community partner representing the NYU Department of Environmental Medicine CEC and focusing on important environmental and public health issues for older adults.



Beth Abbott is Co-Chair of Age-Friendly Ridgewood. She also volunteers on the help line at the Medicare Rights Center. She earned her master's degree in health advocacy from Sarah Lawrence College.



ElesterJoyce "**EJ**" **Vizzi**, LSW, CDP, is the Project Coordinator of Age-Friendly Teaneck through the Bright Side Family and has been with the initiative since 2016. She has been working for organizations and programs that serve the needs of older adults in NJ since 2008. EJ earned her master's degree from Rutgers School of Social Work with a focus on health and aging, management and policy, and non-profit management.



Lisa Bontemps, MA, has been the Project Manager for Westwood for All Ages since 2018. Her background is in organizational development and training. Lisa created a food pantry at her church in 2020 with special emphasis on meeting the food needs of older adults.

Bringing Person-Centered Trauma-Informed Care (PCTI) To Life



Deborah Rokhsar Rosen is the Community Planning Coordinator at the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest New Jersey. Debbie manages the grants received from the Jewish Federations of North America to care for Holocaust survivors and other older adults with a history of trauma. She educates individuals in need, their caregivers and providers about the benefits of caring for people with PCTI care approach. Debbie earned her master's degree in public administration from NYU.



Liz Levy, LCSW, is a Clinician and Coordinator of Holocaust Services at Jewish Family Service of MetroWest New Jersey (JFSMW). Liz has more than 15 years of experience working with adults, older adults and Holocaust survivors at JFSMW. Over the past two years, Liz has spearheaded the integration of PCTI care at JFSMW to further support Holocaust survivors and their families through the aging process with dignity and independence. She earned her Master of Science degree in Social Work from Columbia University.



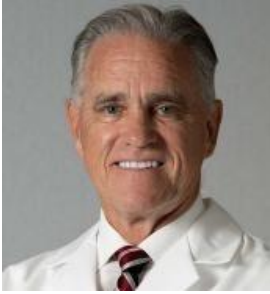
Peter Jacob, LSW, is the Coordinator of Project CEASSE (Combating Elder Abuse through Supportive Services and Education) at Jewish Family Service of Central NJ in Elizabeth, which serves residents throughout Union County. Peter earned his master's degree in social work from Washington University in St. Louis, studying mental health and social economic development.



Rafael Anapolle is a third year DMD candidate at Rutgers School of Dental Medicine (RSDM). He is the founder and President of the RSDM Academy of Laser Dentistry Association and has worked with RSDM's Alpha Omega dental fraternity to coordinate events for the school's Jewish population. Rafael has been working with HSP patients, providing diagnostic, preventative, emergency and restorative dental care under the direct supervision of his attending doctors. He plans to attend a general practice residency following graduation from RSDM.



Dr. Carmen Ramirez earned her DDS from Santa Maria University in Caracas, Venezuela. She attended a one-year residency program with an emphasis on esthetic dentistry at Carabobo University in Valencia, Venezuela. She worked in private practice for seven years, focusing on restorative dentistry. Currently, Dr. Ramirez is a third-year prosthodontics resident in the Department of Restorative Dentistry at Rutgers University.



Dr. John Moran, a general dentist, graduated from UMDNJ, New Jersey Dental School, and maintains dental offices in Harrison and West Long Branch. In addition, he served many years as a public health dentist in the Elizabeth public school system, treating children in an underserved area. Dr. Moran is currently an Assistant Professor at the Rutgers School of Dental Medicine, serving in Diagnostic Sciences and Clinical Affairs. He is a Group Practice Administrator and serves as an advocate in the Holocaust Survivor Program.



Howard Drew, DMD, is a Professor, Director of Implantology, and the Vice Chairman of the Department of Periodontics at the Rutgers School of Dental Medicine (RSDM), formerly New Jersey Dental School (NJDS), in Newark. Dr. Drew teaches both pre- and post-doctoral students, co-directs the undergraduate didactic periodontal therapy course and contributes to the implant surgical program in the periodontal graduate division. Dr. Drew serves on the NJDS Implant Steering and Continuing Education committees and leads the Postgraduate Mentoring Program. Additionally, he is Past-President of the Omicron Kappa Upsilon National Dental Honor Society. Dr. Drew earned his DMD degree from RSDM-NJDS and his postdoctoral certificate in Periodontics from RSDM-NJDS.

Goals of Care - Understanding What Matters to Patients



Vikranta Sharma, MD, FAAHPM, NJAAW Board member, is the Medical Director of Hospice and Palliative Care at the Visiting Nurse Association Health Group (VNAHG) and Palliative Care at CentraState Healthcare System. The VNAHG is NJ's largest not-for-profit provider of home health, visiting physicians, hospice and community-based care. Dr. Sharma diagnoses and treats patients suitable for hospice and palliative care in the service areas of the agency, within private residences, extended-care facilities, hospitals and other facilities. She also develops and provides educational programs for community physicians and medical/agency staff regarding palliative and hospice care.



Joshua J. Raymond, MD, MPH, FAAFP, CMD, NJAAW Board member, is Associate Professor of Medicine and Geriatric Fellowship Director at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School/Rutgers University/CentraState Medical Center. He is board certified in Family Medicine and holds a Certificate of Added Qualification in Geriatric Medicine as well as a Certificate of Added Qualification in Palliative Care Hospice Care. Dr. Raymond is also Medical Director at The Manor nursing facility of the CentraState Medical Center in Freehold.



David Barile, MD, is the Founder and Chief Medical Officer of Goals of Care Coalition of New Jersey and the Director of Palliative Medicine Services and Medical Director of the Acute Care for the Elderly Unit at Penn Medicine Princeton Medical Center. He is also the Medical Director at Princeton Care Center Skilled Nursing Facility, Greenwood Hospice, and Goldenview Memory Home.

Integrating Care to Age Well in Affordable and Permanent Supportive Housing



Candace Robinson is Director of Healthy Communities at Capital Impact Partners, a national nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). Since 2004, Candace has supported Capital Impact Partners' aging strategy to foster innovative solutions at the intersection of aging, community development and healthcare. Specifically, she is leading the organization's efforts to expand capacity to deliver quality health services to a growing population of low-income older adults.

cbrobinson@capitalimpact.org



Michael DiBiase, MBA, is the Executive Director of AtlantiCare LIFE Connection. He has more than 10 years of experience with Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). He is responsible for strategic planning and operations, leads regulatory compliance and fosters community relationships. Michael earned his MBA degree from Wilmington University, New Castle, DE. He attained Lean Six Sigma Black Belt Certification through both Rowan and Villanova (PA) universities, and Senior Care Management Executive Certification through Rutgers University, New Brunswick. *michael.dibiase@atlanticare.org*



Michelle Rampersant-Faulk is the Shared Housing Supervisor at JESPY House. An 11-year employee of JESPY House, she has overseen JESPY's Shared Housing Program and The Michael Och House, A Center for Aging, since 2019. Michelle has also supervised JESPY's vocational department and worked in other departments. (JESPY House – The Michael Och House, A Center for Aging, was last year's recipient of NJAAW's Carl F. West Award.) *MRampersant-Faulk@jespy.org*



Elizabeth Davis is a licensed clinical social worker and assisted living administrator. She is the founder and Executive Director of The Bright Side Family, a group of closely affiliated non-profit organizations that provide affordable assisted living, independent housing and other support services for older adults in Bergen County. Assisted living is provided in Bright Side Manor and through a licensed assisted living program, known as PALS, that provides services for residents in subsidized senior housing. The Bright Side Family also coordinates an age-friendly community initiative in Teaneck and recently launched a county-wide money management program. *elizabethdavis@brightsidemanor.org*

Overcoming Isolation: Impact of COVID-19 on Older Adults/Adult Day Care



Lori Morell, BA, is Director of Parker Adult Day Center in Monroe Township. She has served in several positions during her 12-year tenure at Parker Health Group, Inc., including Director of a Health & Wellness Center supporting hundreds of elders aging at home. Lori, who has been sharing her knowledge of health and wellness for 30 years, is a Certified Wellness Coach, Personal Trainer and an active member of the adult communities in Monroe Township.



Leah Leszcynski, PharmD, received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Rutgers University, Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy. Following her pharmacy school graduation, she completed her post-graduate year-one training at UConn Health in Farmington and is now a post-graduate year-two pharmacy resident specializing in geriatrics at Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston. At Cooperman Barnabas, Dr. Leszcynski has worked closely with the geriatric team in the acute and ambulatory care settings. She has also participated in multiple community outreach events at senior centers in the Livingston area.

Supporting Community Dwelling Older Adults' Health and Wellness through University Supported Programs



Rebecca Mannel is an Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy at Stockton University in Galloway. She has more than 17 years of clinical experience working as an occupational therapist with older adults in various settings, most recently homecare and hospice. She is certified in LSVT-BIG treatment for Parkinson's disease and Skills2Care caregiver training for neurocognitive disorders.



Mary Kientz is an Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy and Program Chair at Stockton University in Galloway. She has more than 30 years of clinical experience and is co-coordinator of the Get FIT projects at Stockton.

Megan Foti is an Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy at Stockton University in Galloway, where she teaches in the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (MSOT) program as well as health- and gerontology-related undergraduate courses. Throughout her career, she has worked in a variety of settings with different client populations but holds the most experience in older adult practice. In this area, she has worked in community-based, continuing care, acute rehabilitation and role emerging settings.

Taking the HIGH Road: Medical Cannabis Use in Older Adults



Jessica A. Bente, PharmD, BCPS, BCGP, is currently the Geriatrics Clinical Pharmacy Specialist and PGY-2 Geriatric Pharmacy Residency Program Director at Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston. She earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from St. John's University in Jamaica, NY, then completed a PGY-1 pharmacy practice residency at Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center. Dr. Bente served as the Transitions of Care pharmacist for five years, working with older adults diagnosed with COPD or pneumonia before she transitioned to her current role as the Geriatric Clinical Pharmacy Specialist and Residency Program Director. Dr. Bente is board certified in Pharmacotherapy as well as Geriatric Pharmacy and focuses on safe medication management and optimization in older adults. Dr. Bente also teaches Pharmacology for Doctor of Physical Therapy students at Kean University.



Mary Bridgeman, PharmD, BCPS, BCGP, earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. After graduation, she completed a post-graduate pharmacy residency at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital-New Brunswick. Dr. Bridgeman is currently a Clinical Professor in the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Administration at the School of Pharmacy at Rutgers. She maintains a practice as an Adult Internal Medicine Clinical Pharmacy Specialist at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital-New Brunswick. She is recognized as a board-certified Pharmacotherapy Specialist and Geriatric Pharmacist, and Fellow of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, the American College of Clinical Pharmacy and the National Academies of Practice.



Theresa M. Redling, DO, FACP, is the Medical Director of Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center's Geriatric Health and Disease Management program. She is also the Medical Director of the Sharon and James Maida Geriatric Institute at CBMC. Dr. Redling is board certified in Geriatric Medicine, Internal Medicine, Hospice and Palliative Care. She joined CBMC in 2012 after holding Chief Geriatric positions at Beth Israel Medical Center in NYC and Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. Her interests include caring for complex elders, Alzheimer's and related dementias, and promoting, teaching and improving the care for health system elders. Dr. Redling is one of a three-Geriatrician primary care and consultative practice at the Institute and manages her own patients with her team of Geriatricians if they require hospitalization at CBMC. She also provides consultative care at CBMC for hospitalized elders, assisting other physicians in best practices for hospital-based elder care. She teaches physicians in training, medical students and many other health care practitioners the art of Geriatric medicine. In addition, Dr. Redling is certified to register patients for medicinal marijuana and has been involved in recommending and educating about MMJ and its use in the elderly.

Thinking Outside the Roadblocks: The Integration of Housing & Health in Affordable Senior Housing



Marilyn Mock, MSW, has over 25 years of experience in the aging field and nine years of experience working with homeless families and women in addiction recovery. Since 2019, Marilyn has served as Policy Director for Wellness Services for Fair Share Support Services, Inc. (FSSS), which provides housing to 650 low-income elderly and disabled individuals and families. Formerly the Director of Social Services, Marilyn was responsible for the provision of social services to residents as well as the development of the FSSS Bridges to Health program. Marilyn serves on the board of the Camden Coalition of Health Care Providers. Previously, she was administrator of senior adult services with Catholic Human Services in Philadelphia. Marilyn earned her MSW degree from Rutgers University and is a graduate of Bryn Mawr College's Nonprofit Executive Leadership Institute.



Darlene Datil is the bilingual Social Services Coordinator with Fair Share Support Services, Inc. (FSSS). She is also the Services for Independent Living (SIL) Coordinator for the NJHMFA SIL program. Darlene provides case management assistance to Northgate residents, including collaboration with Rutgers Camden School of Nursing students, resident health risk assessments and linking residents with community-based resources. In addition, she serves as co-facilitator of the FSSS women's health group. Darlene earned her bachelor's degree from Rutgers University.
