

## **GACA Report for December 13, 2022, 2022 AZ4A Board Chair, Mary Beals Luedtka**

Greetings; thank you for giving the Area Agency on Aging Directors the opportunity to be with you during these meetings and bring to you updates on the status of services provided by the AAA's across the State.

### **Recruitment & Retention of DCW's**

Region II- During November's National Family Caregiver Month, PCOA and its affiliate PimaCare at Home hosted several events to celebrate and honor both unpaid and paid Caregivers. Celebrations ranged from Conga lines dancing through our Lupu Building for Caregiver Support Group participants to a picnic in the park for PimaCare's paid caregivers (several of whom have work with PimaCare clients for more than 30 years. We so value all the work of caregivers regardless of the situation or setting.

Region III- Region III has issued new contracts to providers for home care services starting November 1. The new contracts reflect rate increases with the stipulation that ¾'s of the rate increase must be passed on to the Direct Care Workers. In addition, each provider was allotted one time funds for staff incentives such as sign on bonuses, retention bonuses, etc.

Region III's efforts with DCW incentives and rate increases has been successful as data shows the utilization rates have increased by 12%. Region III is also launching Trualta in January for caregiver training.

### **Open Enrollment- Medicare.gov**

**The Open Enrollment period ended on December 7, 2022. Shout out to Elsa Centeno!**

SEAGO-Area Agency on Aging is proud of the extraordinary work that our new SHIP/SMP Coordinator made, ensuring our region received the counseling guidance they deserve. The new partnerships she made throughout the region were exemplary. She brought on board three new volunteers, and with the help of five volunteers, she produced approximately 255 client contacts. She utilized social media to increase visibility. This collaboration allowed her to share the information with Patagonia, who shared the open enrollment period information via the Patagonia Newsletter. She arranged one to one counseling at multiple public venues.

During Open Enrollment, the AAA SHIP/SMP was able to help the beneficiaries of Region VI navigate **Medicare.gov**, provide education on **Medicare/Medicaid/Extra Help and Saving Plans**, and create Medicare.gov accounts. SHIP/SMP has helped save **\$12,300.38** during Open Enrollment.

### **Misc. Updates:**

#### **Region ONE**

Night of the Living Will - The Agency hosted Night of the Living Will on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. This was the first time the event was held since the pandemic. Eighteen attorneys, who provided their services pro bono, through the Arizona State Bar helped 57 older adults complete their Living Wills and Healthcare Power of Attorney documents.

APS Meeting - On November 9<sup>th</sup>, the Area Agency on Aging, Region One and Pima Council on Aging met with the Division of Aging and Adult Services teams (Aging and Disability Services and Adult Protective Services) to discuss the APS Care Coordination /Intensive Case Management programs that the Area Agencies provide. Also, discussed were the possibilities/ideas for expanding the program statewide.

Mobilize AZ -The Agency just completed a one-year grant through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona's Mobilize AZ program. The grant provided funding to deliver the Diabetes Empowerment Education Program (DEEP). It was a great opportunity to expand beyond the traditional evidence-based program and serve those younger than 60 who may be living with diabetes or pre-diabetes. Health educators from the Area Agency and Dignity Health East Valley were trained to deliver DEEP.

### **Region II**

We are just completing data collection phase of our community assessment. When all are entered, we expect to hear from about 3,500 folks, up from 2,300 in 2016. Additionally, we held 11 listening sessions throughout the County including Ajo, Green Valley, Oro Valley and Marana. We had robust conversations in both English and Spanish. For the first time we also held a virtual session and one targeted at the LGBT+ community.

### **Region III**

Region III still continues to have staffing issues, NACOG has raised the wages 10% in the last 8 months. Region III has 11 openings at this time.

### **Region VI**

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During Open Enrollment, the AAA SHIP/SMP was able to help the beneficiaries of Region VI navigate **Medicare.gov**, provide education on **Medicare/Medicaid/Extra Help and Saving Plans**, and create Medicare.gov accounts. The coordinator and volunteers provide information on any changes their current plan may have for the following year of 2023. SHIP/SMP has helped save **\$12,300.38** during Open Enrollment. The commitment and passion Elsa has for the people she serves is admirable, her professionalism and joy is contagious and it shows when she was able to get through open enrollment period.

### **Region VIII**

- Met with the Arizona Indian Council on Aging (AICOA) elder advisory board to gather input for the FY 2023-2026 Area Plan.
- US Dept of Health and Human Services and Administration for Community Living Pilot for no-cost Over The Counter COVID-19 test kits

- Completing Title VI FY 2023-2026 health assessments for grant application for 4 Tribes.
- Alzheimer's Disease Programs Initiative (ADPI) Grant – 3-year Grant awarded by Administration for Community Living (ACL). Partnering with three Tribes and Banner Alzheimer's Institute to provide dementia education. Powerful Tools for Caregivers (PTC) Training has begun in two Tribal Communities
- Preparing for FY23 Title III Monitoring Visits for 18 Tribal communities

### **ITCA-AAA Challenges**

- Tribal communities are:
  - Tribal staff turnover
  - Increasing training access for informal caregivers
  - Working on winter emergency preparedness and homelessness
  - Tribal Senior Centers adapting to higher food and fuel prices
  - Planning for future vaccination efforts – Bivalent booster, Flu, Shingles, Monkeypox, etc.