2017 Aging and Disability Network Conference
Call for Proposals for Workshop Presentations

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services, through the Division of Public Health, Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources, is sponsoring the first Aging and Disability Network Conference: Together Towards Tomorrow.

This statewide training opportunity is September 6-8, 2017, at the Madison Marriott West, 1313 John. Q. Hammons Drive, Middleton, WI 53562.

Learning Objectives

- Build the knowledge and skills of those working with older adults and people with disabilities
- Encourage the exchange of information and best practices across professional disciplines
- Promote collaboration and partnerships between individuals, agencies, and organizations

Audience

This conference is designed for staff and governing boards or council members working with independent living centers, area agencies on aging, county and tribal aging units, aging and disability resource centers, and the Bureau of Aging and Disability Resources.

Format

Each workshop is 1 hour and 15 minutes in length. Workshops requiring more time may utilize two sessions.

Topic Ideas

Subject areas are identified below. Suggested topics are listed to give an idea of the content area, not to limit or define submissions. Additional ideas are welcome and encouraged.

Selection Process

All proposals are reviewed by the conference planning committee. Notifications will be made by March 1, 2017.

To Submit a Proposal

1. To submit a proposal, click here or visit: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WCRRBLV
2. Proposals must be received by February 24, 2017.
3. Questions? Contact Peggy Rynearson, Conference Planner, at prynearson@gmail.com.

WORKSHOP TOPIC: Collaboration & Partnerships

Description: Individuals, agencies, and organizations often serve the same constituencies; however, there can be limited collaboration because service systems feel siloed. Collaboration and partnership can foster innovation across practice areas, leading to improved service delivery. Suggested topics include:

- Community engagement models
- Understanding intergenerational work styles
- Leveraging resources
- Increasing service coordination and reducing system fragmentation
- Exploring collaborative and partnership models

WORKSHOP TOPIC: Leadership

Description: Modern workplace trends show a changing landscape. As long-term staff retire and organizations reorganize, potential new leaders emerge. What knowledge and skills are needed to ensure continued quality service delivery? Suggested topics include:

- Building strong teams
- Succession planning
- Board development and engagement
- Best practices of delegating
- Building a culture of respect
- Becoming a better communicator

WORKSHOP TOPIC: Data: How to Get It, How to Use It

Description: We now have the capability to mine endless amounts of data. This topic area will explore the impact data could have on the work we do, including methods for acquiring data, understanding how to manage data, and the numerous opportunities for applying data analyses. Suggested topics include:

- Quality improvement
- Grant writing
- Advocacy
- Making the case for your program
- Evidence-based practice
- Save money and/or enhance funding
- Marketing and outreach

WORKSHOP TOPIC: Business Practice and Management

Description: Workers at all levels, from the newest to the most experienced, need to understand the changing office environment. This workshop will highlight the tools that guide a contemporary approach to the workplace that fosters efficiencies, increases employee satisfaction, and improves customer service. Suggested topics include:

- Quality improvement
- Cultural competence
- Working with different generations
- Strategic thinking
- Social networking and marketing
- Hiring people with disabilities
- Effective management: micro or macro styles
- Building strong teams
- Business acumen
- Business planning

WORKSHOP TOPIC: Cultural Competencies

Description: Having an awareness of one's own cultural identity and views about difference, along with the ability to learn and build upon the varying cultural and community norms, is crucial to providing the best service to everyone. This could include ethnic or racial classification and self-identification, tribal or clan affiliation, nationality, language, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, education, religion, spirituality, physical and intellectual abilities, personal appearance, and other factors that distinguish one group or individual from another. Suggested topics include:

- Developing and embracing agency cultural competencies and cultural competency plans.
- Specialized knowledge and understanding of history, traditions, values and family systems related to race and ethnicity; immigration and refugee status; tribal groups; religion and spirituality; sexual orientation; gender identity or expression; social class; and mental or physical abilities of various cultural groups.
- Communication and outreach strategies for all customer groups including those with disabilities, cultural groups, limited English proficiency and literacy issues.
- Understanding and embracing diversity.

WORKSHOP TOPIC: Skill Building and Best Practices

Description: Practical advice and training are the cornerstones of building a foundation of expertise in areas of practice. Suggested topics include:

- Staff competencies and conflicts
- Agency management and direct service competencies
- Embracing staff and service participants' diversity
- Language, racial, ethnic, language/linguistic, LGBTQI, socioeconomic, and other marginalized populations' competencies
- Policies, materials, service delivery with full access
- Avoiding burnout and being the best you
- Providing helpful and informative newsletters
- Maintaining current resources
- Communicating effectively