

Discussant: Patricia M. D'Antonio, *The Gerontological Society of America, Washington, District of Columbia, United States*

The Older Americans Act (OAA) reauthorization looks like the perfect bipartisan bill supporting older adults to move forward in 2019. This session provides an DC-insiders look at the process and outcomes, including analysis of proposed revisions to the law, and the roles of the House, Senate, and the Administration. Key players in the process make up the panel and will share their insights and predications on the Act's future.

OAA AND THE GOAL TO END MALNUTRITION

Robert Blancato¹, *1. Matz, Blancato & Associates, Washington, District of Columbia, United States*

Home delivered and congregate meals programs are a foundation part of the OAA and are a part of each reauthorization process.

THE AGING NETWORK AND THE OAA REAUTHORIZATION

Amy Gotwals¹, *1. National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Washington, District of Columbia, United States*

Area Agencies on Aging and the aging network are the key service organizers and providers across the nation. This session will address the goals of the aging network for the OAA reauthorization and the trends and innovations in community-based service delivery.

FAMILY CAREGIVING AND THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT

C. Grace Whiting¹, *1. National Alliance for Caregiving, Bethesda, Maryland, United States*

This session will focus on the challenges faced by millions of family caregivers and the innovative approaches that the OAA and other programs are using to be supportive of caregivers.

ADVANCED ILLNESS AND THE AGING NETWORK

Andrew MacPherson¹, *1. Coalition to End Social Isolation & Loneliness, Washington, District of Columbia, United States*

This session will provide insights on the many ways that the aging network and the Older Americans Act is able to assist individuals, and their families, who are dealing with a serious or advanced illness.

SESSION 1235 (SYMPOSIUM)

PARTICIPANT AND CAREGIVER VIEWS OF SELF-DIRECTION OF HOME AND COMMUNITY SERVICES 15 YEARS AFTER CASH & COUNSELING

Chair: Kevin J. Mahoney, *Boston College School of Social Work National Resource Center (NRCPS), Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, United States*

Discussant: Michelle Putnam, *Simmons College School of Social Work, Boston, Massachusetts, United States*

Results of the Cash and Counseling controlled experiment are now more than ten years old. This symposium, based on a recent Special Issue of the Journal of Gerontological

Social Work on self direction of home and community-based services and supports for people with disabilities, begins with an overview of the status of self-direction in the United States where now over 1.1 million people are managing their own services and supports. After summarizing the six research studies in this Special Issue presenting feedback on the self-direction model from participants, their caregivers, and unpaid representatives followed by participant views on remaining unmet needs, the ideal and undesired characteristics of support brokers, and a research study to develop modules for training care managers and support brokers on person-centered planning and self-direction, papers will be presented focusing on two of these studies highlighting improvements needed in the self-direction approach if it is to become available to all persons with disabilities. The first paper is titled, "Unmet Needs Even When People Have Control of the HCBS Budget"; the second deals with the "Tasks and Characteristics of Supportive Support Brokers"; while the third paper looks at "Present Efforts and Recommendations for Training Support Brokers on the Principles, Values, and Skills to Assist People with Disabilities Who Wish to Direct Their Own Supports". The session ends with a presentation on the program and policy implications of this research for federal agencies.

UNMET NEEDS IN SELF-DIRECTED HCBS PROGRAMS

Kevin J. Mahoney,¹ Ellen k. Mahoney,² Carmen Morano,³ and Andrew DeVellis⁴, *1. Boston College School of Social Work National Resource Center (NRCPS), Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, United States, 2. Connell School of Nursing, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, United States, 3. School of Social Welfare, University at Albany, State University of New York, Albany, New York, United States, 4. Simmons School of Social Work, Boston, Massachusetts, United States*

Unmet Need for long-term services and supports has been linked to a variety of harmful health outcomes. One suggested strategy for ameliorating unmet need is to give participants control of the budget and let them construct individualized plans. The evaluation of the Cash and Counseling controlled experiment documented a marked reduction in unmet need when compared to traditional agency-based solutions, but it also showed significant unmet needs remained. This paper, drawing from 76 ethnographic case studies of Cash and Counseling participants, gives us an understanding of what those unmet needs are, who sees them, and what participants and their family caregivers see as possible remedies. Certain areas of unmet need identified in this study stand out. These included health-related problems, environmental issues, and the caregivers' need for relief. The paper concludes with implications for care integration and the training of support brokers as warnings about reducing budgets.

PARTICIPANT VIEWS OF THE TASKS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF SUPPORTIVE SUPPORT BROKERS IN SELF-DIRECTION PROGRAMS

Ellen K. Mahoney,¹ Grace Oh,¹ Carmen Morano,² Kevin J. Mahoney,³ and Andrew DeVellis⁴, *1. Connell School of Nursing, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, United States, 2. School of Social Welfare,*