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What is The Partnership for Elder Living, Inc.?

The system of services and care for seniors (we prefer the term “elders”) is being taxed by a huge population explosion caused by the “Baby Boom” generation and increasing longevity of life. Government, non-profit, and for-profit entities address a myriad of issues that relate to the need that our society has to make our senior citizens as comfortable as possible.

There is not a reduction in the quality of the services, just a lack of capacity to meet the growth. The professionals in this field are intelligent, creative, dedicated, experienced, and overwhelmed. There is a need for more collaboration among them to find ways to maximize efficiencies and create alternatives to traditional ways of providing services. The professionals and the agencies they represent have the knowledge to find solutions, but they don't have the time or the resources to bring the other parts of the community together to work on those solutions.

In 2009, the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation joined with West Virginia Community Voices, Inc. to address this problem. Using a model developed by Community Voices and funded by Benedum that relates to issues around perinatal care services, they established the West Virginia Long Term Care Partnership (WVLTCP). To clarify the scope of its work, the project's name was changed to the WV Partnership for Elder Living (WVPEL) in 2011 because too many people related “long term care” to specific kinds of institutional services. The mission is now “to foster opportunities for West Virginians to live and age with dignity and purpose.” In 2015, the WV Partnership for Elder Living incorporated to become an independent non-profit membership organization, transitioning to the WV Partnership for Elder Living, Inc.

WVPEL works to meet its mission in two ways. Primarily, WVPEL convenes work groups of professionals in the field of aging services to assess and analyze the issue and its impact on elder living in the state, then creating strategies for improving the situation. WVPEL also conducts projects which study various aspects of these issues. These projects are mostly collaboration with partner organizations and agencies.

There are also special projects such as a partnership with AARP of West Virginia to convene a top-level taskforce of leaders in the fields of aging services to study possible ways to change the system to meet the population challenges of the future. This group is called the West Virginia Future of Aging and Caregiving Taskforce (WV FACT) and its work is ongoing. We have partnered with a number of housing entities in the state to provide an elder housing track for a comprehensive state housing conference for two years. WVPEL also holds an annual Partner Summit to feature national-level speakers on topics of interest as well as presentations on projects being done in different parts of West Virginia.

**On the back of this page is a list of some of the accomplishments of WVPEL
For more information or access to reports and papers referenced here,
please go to www.wvpel.org.**

Thank you for your interest

Some Accomplishments of the West Virginia Partnership for Elder Living and West Virginia Long Term Care Partnership 2010 – 2014

- ⤴ Study of the need for a Gerontology Practitioner Certificate (GPC) conducted by West Virginia University School of Social Work (12 individuals representing eight agencies involved in development of a survey completed by 391 individuals). This study was an important part of the decision to start the GPC program in June of 2013.
- ⤴ Study of the need for a database of in-home direct care workers in West Virginia (8 agencies represented)
- ⤴ Study and report of recommendations for improvement of the long term care workforce in West Virginia (18 individuals representing 16 agencies)
- ⤴ Publication of the Elder Economic Security Standard™ Index for West Virginia and related reports (4 agencies involved)
- ⤴ Publication of The State of Older Adults in West Virginia: Economic Security and the Over 65 Population, which is a follow-up to the Economic Security Standard™ Index for West Virginia (available online at wvpel.org)
- ⤴ Facilitation of the Make a Plan for Alzheimer's project resulting in a state-wide plan presented to and accepted by the WV State Legislature (54 individual representing themselves and 24 agencies)
- ⤴ Convened and facilitated discussions by three community health centers around the issue of medical home protocols for geriatric primary care in rural areas resulting in a major pilot project involving over 500 “dual eligible” patients – ongoing.
- ⤴ Convened and facilitated work group to refine the work of the in-home direct care workforce group resulting in legislative approval of a plan to create an online registry of direct care workers in the state. This group also developed a statewide standard curriculum for training such workers
- ⤴ Convened and facilitate a work group studying the care needs of West Virginia elders with chronic and advanced diseases which conducted surveys of professionals, patients needing care, and caregivers around the state (funded by WVPEL) with survey completion by over 400 individuals (22 individuals representing themselves and 18 agencies)
- ⤴ Convened in cooperation with the Mid-Ohio Valley Rural Health Alliance a work group to study and improve transitional care between long term care facilities and hospitals in the 2-state area around Parkersburg, WV (28 individuals representing themselves and 16 agencies)
- ⤴ Funded a study of the medication needs of West Virginia elders who reach the “doughnut hole” in the Medicare Part D program (available online at wvpel.org)
- ⤴ Conducted five statewide conferences (“Partner Summits”) with national and state speakers.
- ⤴ Conducted an assessment of the elder service/care system in an 8 county area of West Virginia.
- ⤴ Convinced state Legislature to pass resolutions to study adult day health services, direct care worker training and certification, and the elder service system as a whole.
- ⤴ In 2014 in collaboration with AARP WV, published a major report on the status of the system of aging services in West Virginia and convened a top-level taskforce to study ways to improve the system for the future.
- ⤴ In collaboration with Pendleton Community Care, started a pilot project to study the effectiveness of in-home monitoring technology on the health of frail elders who want to remain in their homes.
- ⤴ In collaboration with a large number of housing agencies and organizations, headed up the Elder Housing track of the 2014 and 2015 WV Housing Conference. We also facilitate a housing workgroup.