

FTAAAD QUARTERLY NEWS



April–June 2023 Volume 11 Issue 2

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Things are busy at FTAAAD, as usual. Here are a small number of things going on right now. I can't wait to see what next quarter brings.

- * Governor Lee proclaimed March 2023 to be Senior Nutrition Month.

- * Along with our nutrition partners (FTHRA and Fit Clean Meals) we were able to serve 296,246 meals to food insecure individuals last year.

- * More than 500 volunteers contributed \$596,925 in in-kind donations to the nutrition programs.

- * The five MyRIDE volunteer transportation programs officially provided 20,000 rides since 2019.

- * The Collaborative Response to Elder and Vulnerable Adult Abuse (CREVAA) program is turning five years old in April. Senior victims of crimes in all eight counties have been helped through this program.

- * And the Area Plan updates are in full swing as we formulate a course

of action for next year.

Finally, March was also National Social Workers Month. We at FTAAAD would like to recognize our dedicated staff doing social work every day on behalf of the older adults and adults with disabilities in Northeast Tennessee: Rachel Barker, Julia Church, Stephanie Cox, Darlene Cunningham, Nancy Eastridge, Erica Grafton, Michelle Gray, Genie Guinn, Amber Harvey, Harley Jeter, Kattie Kincaid, Melissa Nelson, Robin Newman, Kevin Rincon, Morgane Smith, and Julie Webster. You are greatly appreciated!



Angie Gwaltney,
Director

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FTAAAD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

April 25, 2023
Kingsport, TN

KEY DATES

NET-VAC Meeting

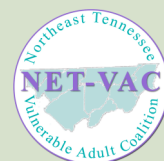
April 5, 9:30 am
Trinity Assembly of God,
617 University Pkwy., Johnson City

NET-VAC Meeting

May 3, 9:30 am
Trinity Assembly of God,
617 University Pkwy., Johnson City

NET-VAC Meeting

June 7, 9:30 am
Trinity Assembly of God,
617 University Pkwy., Johnson City





CHOICES UPDATE: PROGRAM TRANSITIONS

For eligible individuals, TennCare CHOICES covers care in a nursing facility (Group 1) or in a community setting such as an assisted-care facility, or one's home (Groups 2 and 3).

CHOICES allows for transitions from one of these Groups to another. For example, Group 2 or 3 Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) may cease to be the best option for someone who has a decline in health or change in availability of caregivers, and a transition to a nursing facility may be beneficial. Or an individual in a nursing facility may experience improved personal health and community supports, and wish to transition to a community placement.

Under CHOICES, a Managed Care Organization (MCO) and Care Manager will collaborate with the individual and their family, the primary-care physician, any involved nursing facilities, and other community agencies to facilitate transitions from one CHOICES group to another if desired.

The transition process includes a PAE (Pre-Admission Evaluation) and for Group 2 or 3 to Group 1 transitions, a PASRR (Pre-Admission Screening and

Resident Review). These assessments are designed to ensure that the transition is actually best for the individual's personal situation.

The Minimum Data Set 3.0 Section Q (MDS-Q) may be part of a Group 1 to Group 2 or 3 CHOICES transition. MDS-Q is a federally-mandated process that provides individuals living in nursing facilities with opportunities to express interest in, and learn more about, transitioning to living in a home or other community setting such as an assisted-living facility. LCAs (Local Contact Agencies) such as the Area Agency on Aging provide this information and support to interested individuals.

To learn more about CHOICES, contact FTAAAD at 423.928-3258.

—Courtesy of Stephanie Cox, FTAAAD



SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED!

On Tuesday, April 25, 2023 FTAAAD is holding our fourth annual Silent Auction as part of our aging conference, with all of the proceeds going to our Emergency Assistance Fund. We are asking for your help, because no senior should have to go without basic needs.

Can you donate an item, gift card or service for our Silent Auction? One-hundred percent of your tax-deductible donation will help a senior in our eight-

county service area with a small, one-time need. Each donor and their donated items will be featured in our Silent Auction list and on the FTAAAD Facebook page, along with a mention on our lunchtime Power Point Presentation.

If you can donate a new item or service, please contact Kathleen McLaughlin at kmclaughlin@ftaad.org. The donation deadline is April 21, 2023.

20,000 TRIPS FOR MYRIDE

MyRIDE First Tennessee, a door-through-door volunteer transportation program for adults over age 60, has now exceeded 200,000 miles traveled via 20,000 trips since launching four years ago. This incredible milestone proves the importance of the MyRIDE programs in Northeast Tennessee, which ensures that area seniors have access to safe, reliable, inexpensive transportation if they are unable to drive themselves.

Initially funded by a settlement through the Davidson County Chancery Court, MyRIDE programs are were established in Greeneville, Johnson City, Johnson County, Jonesborough, and Kingsport. After the initial funding, these programs were required to become sustainable in the long-term.

Coordinators with these local programs connect seniors, who pay an annual subscription and small per-trip fee, to their network of volunteer drivers who make trips to doctors' offices, grocery stores, pharmacies, banks, or any other locations a senior might wish to visit.

"The MyRIDE programs are very successful in the region," MyRIDE Volunteer Coordinator, Lee Gay stated. "Our MyRIDE clients have commented that the program has given them back a sense of freedom. Before using the program, they felt like a burden to their families when they need transportation."

Anyone interested in more information on MyRIDE services, or to register as a volunteer driver, should contact Lee Gay, 423-722-5100.

—Courtesy of Mark Stevens





WHAT DOES THE FTAAAD LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN DO?

The Long-Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman works to resolve problems related to the health, safety, welfare, and rights of individuals who live in LTC facilities such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other residential care communities. Our District LTC Ombudsman is Karrie Erick, but sustainable funding for additional staff is essential to maintain quality of life for older adults in Northeast Tennessee and our most vulnerable residents of long-term care facilities.

Everyone deserves proper treatment and respect—especially those in LTC facilities. Unfortunately, in Tennessee

abuse and neglect have been the most frequent complaints received by the Ombudsman for four years straight.

With proper funding ombudsmen across the state could resolve issues BEFORE a regulatory agency needs to get involved. That would mean better care and less expense as the resolution rate for complaints is an astounding 80 percent.

Challenges faced by the program could be addressed quickly with additional funding.

* The number of complaints received statewide has doubled in the last year and continues to climb.

* Complaints are at an all-time high at 3,703, which is the most in the program's history.

* Severity of illness among LTC residents and its associated issues has significantly increased.

* And finally, program funding has not kept pace with increased demand for services. Budget funding has seen very little change since FY2009, and the loss of ARPA funds will worsen the already severely understaffed program.

—Courtesy of Karrie Erick, FTAAAD

NEW FTAAAD GRANT RECEIVED

FTAAAD has been awarded \$100,000 for a nationwide aging/disability COVID-19 and influenza vaccine support grant. We will be partnering with ETSU Health to promote the mobile vaccination clinics funded through their own COVID Vaccine Initiative Grant award.

The primary responsibility of FTAAAD in this grant is to conduct media promotion, phone and in-person outreach and overall education to older adults and adults with disabilities on the importance of these vaccines, and to provide resources to help individuals with questions about the diseases and vaccines, in locating a convenient vaccination site, and securing transportation to the vaccination site, if necessary.

As a benefit to ETSU's own vaccine grant project, FTAAAD's

media promotion would also increase awareness of the ETSU vaccination clinics among all audiences across the eight counties of Northeast Tennessee.

If any individuals are interested in getting the original two-shot vaccine protocol, or the COVID booster, or just have questions about the virus, please direct them to the FTAAAD Information & Assistance line at 423-928-3258.

—Courtesy of FTAAAD



VOLUNTEER AWARD

During her 46 years of service to the First Tennessee Area Agency on Aging and Disability, including 29 years as director, Kathy Whitaker embodied the commitment to service on behalf of older adults in Northeast Tennessee. In honor of her continuing spirit of volunteerism, the Board of Directors of the First Tennessee Development District has created an award in her name honoring others' volunteer service in the community to improve the lives of older adults.

This award will be presented annually to recognize volunteers who display the same commitment to seniors in their community by awarding the Kathy Whitaker Excellence in Aging Service Award.

We are proud to announce that this year's winner is Kimberly Howell. Kim has been a dedicated volunteer for decades, and we can't wait to honor her at the Annual Conference on Aging on April 25.



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First Tennessee Area Agency on Aging and Disability

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1-866-836-6678 (Toll-Free)
1-877-801-0044 (SHIP)
423-926-8291 (Local)

www.ftaad.org

No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

This project is funded under a grant contract with the State of Tennessee.

Contributions are encouraged to support all programs but no one is refused service for inability to pay.

The FTAAAD is part of the First Tennessee Development District.



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Scan our QR code to go directly to the FTAAAD website



This project was supported, in part by grant number 90SAPG0069-02-00, 2001TNMISH-00, 2001TNMIAA-00, and 2001TNMIDR-00, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects with government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy.



PHOTO GALLERY



The five MyRIDE volunteer-transportation programs celebrated reaching 20,000 rides in March.



FTDD staff helping to photograph the silent auction donations for promotion on the FTAAAD Facebook page



Two recipients of robotic pets from FTAAAD's most recent grant award.