Team Teaching Online: An Academic & Professional Partnership focusing on Senior Transportation

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Starting Point

• Most older drivers are safe drivers.
• It is not about age—it is about medical conditions that impact critical driving skills.
• Female non drivers outnumber male non drivers three to one.
• Driving cessation is associated with:
  • Increased social isolation
  • Increased symptoms of depression
  • Accelerated health declines

“Of all older non-drivers, 54% do not leave their home on a given day, while only 17% of drivers stay home.”  (Bailey, 2004)

“(In the USA), Men outlive their ability to drive safely by 6 years; women outlive their ability to drive safely by 10 years.”  (Foley et al., 2002)
Community Mobility Continuum

The Pathway from Driver to Passenger

- Screening
- Assessment
- Monitoring & Introduction of Community Mobility Options
- Introduction of Travel Training & Mobility Management
- Supportive Dementia-Friendly Transportation

Consider: when to Refer, when to Rehab, when to Relearn, when to Recommend, when to Reassure

Intersectionality between Transportation & Aging

- Different jargon
- Different funding streams
- Different priorities
- Different knowledge and skill sets

- Sabbatical experience with NHTSA and the Alz Public Policy Office in DC during 2004-05 led to research, education, and policy work with transportation colleagues.
  - Transportation Research Board (TRB)
  - Gerontological Society of America (GSA) Transportation & Aging Interest Group
  - Journal of Transport & Health (Associate Editor)
Professional Partner

Helen Kerschner, PhD
Director, Volunteer Transportation
Shepherd Centers of America

- 35 years of experience in health, aging, transportation, and international development.
- Former Director of the National Volunteer Transportation Center of the Community Transportation Association of America, Washington, DC.
- Former, President and CEO of the Beverly Foundation, which conducted research, demonstration and education to for enhancing mobility for today’s and tomorrow’s older population.
Developed in 2012 as an academic and professional partnership (To date, 58 grad students and 85 professionals trained)

Funding from the Beverly Foundation Legacy assured:
- Partial scholarships intended for 5 years for non-profit transportation & aging service providers (planned for 25 and stretched it to 37 awarded in 8 years)
- Honoraria for experts in the field
- Co-authored a supplemental textbook (2018)
Two Agendas—Two Programs

- Graduate Course: GERON GR 640 (3 academic credits)
  - Elective for students in the Management of Aging Services Masters program, Gerontology Department, UMass Boston

- Professionals’ Course: PRFTRN 117 (4.2 CEUs)
  - Certificate in Organizing and Managing Senior Transportation Options for professionals in transportation and aging. Gerontology Institute and Corporate and Professional Development, UMass Boston

- Two separate Blackboard course sites
- About 7 synchronous/real time and 6 asynchronous/self-paced sessions over a full academic semester.
- Grad students are graded and have more assignments— all have applied learning exercises.
Major Topics Covered

- Older Drivers and their Transitions to Options
- The Family of Transportation Services
- Senior Friendliness and Transportation
- Older Adults and their Utilization of Options
- Volunteer Driver Programs
- Special Focus on Rural
- Risk Management Challenges and Solutions
- Plan for the Road Ahead: Making a Transportation Plan
- Strategies for Providing Support to Passengers with Dementia and their Caregivers
- Technology and Transportation for Older Adults
- Senior Transportation Today and Tomorrow
Impact of COVID-19

• Already online—so no impact on course delivery
• Added to content with newly developed resources:
  • NADTC. (nd). The impact of COVID-19 on transportation access and social isolation. Brief. (focus on response from transportation providers).  

  • NADTC. (nd). Operating Volunteer Driver Programs in a Pandemic. Tip sheet.  

  • Encouraged our Experts to address
“Ask the Experts” from the field

Dale Marsico, former ED, CTAA
Currently with United Health Care

Elin Schold Davis
Older Driver Initiative
American Occupational Therapy Assoc.

William Henry,
Volunteer Insurance Service Assoc.

Julie Wilcke, Ride Connection
Portland, OR

Connie Garber,
York County Community Action, ME

Barb Cline, Prairie Hills Transit, SD
Examples of Applied Exercises

- Discover your Transportation Priorities
- Calculate Senior-Friendly Transportation in your community using the 5A’s:
  - Available, Acceptable, Accessible, Adaptable, Affordable
- Plan a Volunteer Driver Program
- Plan a Risk Management Strategy
Thank you!

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