



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 17, 2018

CONTACT: Mike Reardon
360-735-5729
reardml@dshs.wa.gov

Caring Beyond Healthcare Program Receives an *Aging Achievement Award* from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)

Vancouver, WA: The Area Agency on Aging & Disabilities of Southwest Washington (AAADSW) announces that the Caring Beyond Healthcare program has been honored with an Aging Achievement Award by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a). The awards program is supported by WellCare Health Plans. Caring Beyond Healthcare was among 45 local aging programs to receive honors at the n4a Annual Conference & Tradeshow, July 28–August 1 in Chicago, IL.

The 2018 n4a *Aging Innovations and Achievement Awards* recognizes Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and Title VI Native American aging programs that develop and implement cutting-edge approaches to support older adults, people with disabilities and their family caregivers. A part of the criteria for the selection of the honorees was the ease with which other agencies could replicate the program in their communities.

“With the health care landscape changing at a rapid pace, our members continue to meet the needs of America’s rapidly growing older adult population by finding new ways to position themselves in the long-term and health care marketplaces while strengthening the services they already offer,” said n4a’s Chief Executive Officer Sandy Markwood. “Our members work tirelessly, with little fanfare in their communities, and this program enables us to shine a well-deserved spotlight on their critical work to support older adults’ health, safety, independence and dignity,” said Markwood.

AAADSW collaborated with the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization and a local hospital to implement the Caring Beyond Healthcare initiative. This project screened all dually-eligible, admitted patients for their social determinants of health needs and referred them to AAADSW as needs were identified over the course of a calendar year. Intentional collaboration between AAADSW and Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center to address social determinants of health within the context of the healthcare

www.HelpingElders.org

201 NE 73rd Street, Suite 201 | Vancouver, WA 98665 | 360-735-5720 | Toll Free:
888-637-6060

environment has proven effective. The initial report on patient outcomes showed, a decline in healthcare utilization occurred across 67% decrease in 30-day readmissions, a 64% reduction in 6-month readmissions and a 56% reduction Emergency Department (ED) utilization. This promising practice highlights Area Agencies on Aging as experts where health happens – in the home.

“AAADSW is pleased to be recognized by the National Board of Area Agencies on Aging for our creative partnership with the Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center designed to utilize the value of community based organizations for their complex patients being discharged from the hospital”, stated AAADSW Executive Director Dave Kelly.

The 2018 n4a *Aging Achievement Awards* honored traditional and new strategies in a range of categories including Advocacy, Agency Operations, Caregiving, Diversity & Cultural Competency, Elder Abuse Prevention, Health-LTSS Integration, Healthy Aging, Home & Community-Based Services, Information & Referral/Access to Services, Intergenerational Programs, Nutrition, Social Engagement, Technology, Transportation & Mobility and Workforce Development.

All winners are showcased in an [n4a publication](#).

About AAADSW

The Area Agency on Aging & Disabilities of Southwest Washington is a multi-service public agency providing assistance to the elderly and disabled of Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Skamania and Wahkiakum counties. Requests for information, assistance and general inquiries may be directed to (360) 694-8144. (www.helpingelders.org / <https://www.facebook.com/HelpingElders/>)

About n4a

The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) is the leading voice on aging issues for the 622 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) across the country and a champion in our nation’s capital for the more than 250 Title VI Native American aging programs. n4a’s primary mission is to build the capacity of our members so they can help older adults and people with disabilities live with dignity and choices in their homes and communities for as long as possible. (www.n4a.org / www.facebook.com/n4aACTION)

#