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Area Agency on Aging recognized with awards at national conference

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH — Region IV Area Agency on Aging (AAA) was recognized this week with two national awards at the USAging 48th Annual Conference and Tradeshow in Salt Lake City, UT.

AAA won the 2023 Aging Innovations Award from USAging in the Health-Longterm Services and Support Integration category and placed second overall in the nation for all categories. In addition, AAA was named runner up for The John A. Hartford Foundation 2023 Business Innovation Award.

The awards were given in recognition of its Community of Care for Older Adults with Complex Care Needs partnership with Corewell Health South. The partnership serves older adults who are high utilizers of inpatient and emergency department services.

“Community of Care provides older adults with an interdisciplinary care team who meet weekly to create person-centered care plans,” AAA CEO Christine Vanlandingham said. “AAA serves as the hub of connectivity to the ecosystem of community-based organizations to meet the social determinate of health needs and identified goals for each individual.”

The achievements of this partnership include linking AAA care managers with Corewell medical clinicians in an integrated team and creating patient-tailored interventions using the 4M’s (what matters, medication, mentation and mobility), the 4 evidence-based elements of high-quality care.

“Less than 10 percent of Community of Care patients have experienced an emergency room visit or unplanned inpatient hospital since enrollment,” Vanlandingham said.

This has resulted in an estimated health care savings of \$770,200 for avoided inpatient stays and \$55,558 for avoided emergency room visit costs for 46 patients.

"The community-based organizations recognized this year stand out as inspirational leaders in ensuring that older adults and people with disabilities have access to equitable, age-friendly health care," said

Terry Fulmer, president of The John A. Hartford Foundation. "By working collaboratively with other community-based organizations to meet their community's health-related social needs, Western New York Integrated Care Collaborative, the Central Ohio Area Agency on Aging and the Region IV Area Agency on Aging have shown not only that these partnerships work, but that they can reduce barriers to care and improve overall health."

USAging CEO Sandy Markwood said, "The AAAs and Title VI programs we honor today have set a standard for innovation and creativity in helping older adults live with independence and dignity in their homes and communities. USAging is inspired by the example they have set for others in the Aging Network."

USAging is the national association representing and supporting the network of Area Agencies on Aging.

USAging presented 34 Aging Achievement Awards and 16 Aging Innovations Awards to programs in a variety of areas, including advocacy; caregiving; diversity, equity and inclusion; healthy aging; home and community-based services; housing and homelessness; public health and vaccinations; social engagement; transportation and mobility; and workforce development. Descriptions of all 50 award-winning programs can be found in the [USAging Aging Innovations & Achievement Awards Showcase](#).

More award information can be found at:

<https://www.usaging.org/content.asp?admin=Y&contentid=1500> and

<https://www.usaging.org/content.asp?admin=Y&contentid=1501>

For more information on how Area Agency on Aging can support the health care needs of older adults, visit www.AreaAgencyonAging.org or call 800-654-2810.

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About Region IV Area Agency on Aging Region IV Area Agency on Aging is a private, not-for-profit corporation. Established in 1974 for the business of developing age supportive commerce and services, it plays a major role in planning, funding, and delivery of a host of services. Empowerment and independence of community members are driving themes behind its efforts. Designated by the State of Michigan to receive federal Older Americans Act funds for planning and development, the agency manages an array of government contracts for service delivery in southwest Michigan. Its primary service area includes Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties. For more information about the RIVAAA, visit www.areaagencyonaging.org