

Sustainability

The following panelists participated in a discussion about organizational sustainability at the Grantee Connections Conference on April 18, 2024. They shared how they built momentum for their work beyond their MI Health Endowment Fund grants in both expected and surprising ways.

For several years the Healthy Aging program team has worked with Emergence Collective to evaluate the “ripple effects” of funded initiatives. Some of these include the ways programs have expanded over time, through replication in new contexts or communities. Ripple effects also include policy change and opportunities to maintain financial support beyond project funds.

Dr. Sara Arena, Oakland University

HOP-UP-PT is designed to provide early preventative interventions to older adults at risk of being homebound by facilitating partnerships between community centers and local physical therapists. Recent partnerships with health systems and the ability to bill Medicare will support continued expansion of the program.

Contact Sara at arena@oakland.edu.



Nathaniel Bergman, PharmD, Region VII AAA

The pharmacist-led Community Care Transition initiative supports rural older adults after hospital discharge and includes collaboration across hospital-based providers, Community Health Workers and pharmacists. The program has received continued investment from Ascension St. Mary's health system, as well as funding commitments from Michigan's State Unit on Aging to expand to five more regional AAAs.

Contact Nathaniel at bergmann@region7aaa.org.



Alison Hirschel, JD Michigan Elder Justice Initiative

The Michigan Elder Justice Initiative developed a Home and Community Based Services Ombudsman program to support those in the MI Choice, Community Transition Services, and PACE programs across MI. They advocate for applicants and participants to ensure they receive the care they are entitled to. MEJI received long-term MDHHS funding to continue these efforts statewide.

Contact Alison at hirschel@meji.org.



Dr. Peter Lichtenberg, Wayne State University

Dr. Lichtenberg has partnered with Michigan Adult Protective Services to provide training and tools for older adult financial exploitation investigations since 2016. This work has led to several publications. Training tools have been widely adopted by Michigan's APS system as best practice instruments, and they are used by APS professionals across the state.

Contact Peter at p.lichtenberg@wayne.edu.



Dr. Jyotsna Pandey, Central Michigan University

In addition to working to ensure geriatric training is a key curricular component across various Central Michigan University health professions (e.g. MD, OT, PT), Dr. Pandey has also collaborated with the CMU Medical Center to develop a home-based wellness check and fall risk screening program oriented toward rural older adults.

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