

Web-based Assessment Tool to Advance Healthy Aging for Affordable Housing Residents

COLLAGE, The Art & Science of Healthy Aging to Launch Demonstration Lab

Kennett Square, PA – *COLLAGE, The Art & Science of Healthy Aging* (www.collageaging.org), a consortium of aging services organizations using an automated assessment system to advance healthy aging, has selected 20 sites nationally to participate in an affordable housing demonstration laboratory beginning October 2010. The chosen sites will use the COLLAGE new Web-based comprehensive assessment tools to advance healthy aging for housing residents and improve community outcomes.

The selected housing sites include:

- Bristol Court, National Church Residence, Columbus, OH (www.ncr.org/home/index.asp)
- Campbell-Stone Sandy Springs, Atlanta, GA (www.campbellstone.org)
- Delaney Terrace, Chelmsford Housing Authority, Chelmsford, MA (www.chelmsfordha.com)
- Eaton Terrace, Eaton Senior Programs, Lakewood, CO (www.eatonseniorprograms.org)
- Eaton Terrace II, Eaton Senior Programs, Lakewood, CO (www.eatonseniorprograms.org)
- Fairport Apartments, Fairport Baptist Homes Community Ministries, Fairport, NY (www.fairportbaptisthomes.org)
- Four Winds Senior Housing, Cathedral Square Corporation, Burlington, VT (www.cathedralsquare.org)
- InCare Suites, National Church Residence, Columbus, OH (www.ncr.org/home/index.asp)
- Monroe Terrace, Dartmouth Housing Authority, Dartmouth, MA
- Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Community, Fairport Baptist Homes Community Ministries, Fairport, NY (www.fairportbaptisthomes.org)
- Northaven I, Seattle, WA (www.northaven.com)
- Northaven II, Seattle, WA (www.northaven.com)
- North Village, Chelmsford Housing Authority, Chelmsford, MA (www.chelmsfordha.com)
- River Grove Retirement Community, Porter Hills, Grand Rapids, MI (www.porterhills.org)
- Rose Hill House, Lutheran Senior Services, Kirkwood, MO (www.lssliving.org/affordable-housing/rose-hill-house)
- Seven Oaks of Florence, Omaha, NE (www.sevenoaksofflorence.org)
- Sol-E-Mar Lane, Dartmouth Housing Authority, Dartmouth, MA
- The Park Danforth, Portland, ME (www.parkdanforth.com)
- Umphress Terrace, CC Young, Dallas, TX (www.ccyoung.org/home.asp)
- Walker Memorial Retirement Community, Porter Hills, Grand Rapids, MI (www.porterhills.org)

Ellen O'Connor, Coordinator and Resource Specialist with Fairport Baptist Homes Community Ministries, commented, "In an environment where it is more critical than ever to make programming and spending decisions based on data, COLLAGE is an essential tool. It will be useful in outcome measurement especially in aging services, an area where outcome measurement is in its infancy. It has been a goal of the Senior Options for Independence program of the Fairport Baptist Homes Community Ministries to use COLLAGE since 2008. I am convinced the program has application to community-based programming and I'm grateful for the opportunity to participate."

Beryl Goldman, Director of Kendal Outreach, LLC, commented, "This is a tremendous opportunity for affordable housing to improve healthy aging on a larger scale. We've been so impressed with

our early work with the selected sites that will launch COLLAGE. Their energy, caring spirit, and determination to use the tool to improve outcomes has been nothing less than stellar. It's a tribute to their leadership and staff, and we feel grateful to be working with them."

Many subsidized housing sites have very limited staff and technology resources. The key questions are: How do subsidized housing sites effectively collect assessment information despite very limited staff or technology resources? How do sites best secure internal and external resources to implement the identified interventions and programs needed by residents? The goal is to test different assessment data collection methods and identify the most effective and viable ones.

COLLAGE offers a customized suite of standardized and systematic assessment instruments that evaluate health and wellness in areas such as memory loss, nutrition, balance, mental well-being and social connectedness. The system is used by a consortium network consisting of continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs), congregate senior housing sites (both market rate and subsidized), and senior service agencies. As a unique aspect of COLLAGE, information is forwarded to a national repository, which disseminates reports allowing members to compare and benchmark resident assessment data with their peers.

COLLAGE was created in 2005 as a joint venture between Kendal Outreach, LLC, a not-for-profit subsidiary of The Kendal Corporation, and the Institute for Aging Research at Hebrew SeniorLife, a not-for-profit organization affiliated with Harvard Medical School.

The collected and analyzed assessment data provide a framework for applying evidence-based interventions to improve:

- the ability of older adults to remain independent;
- the overall quality, consistency, and continuity of health and wellness services;
- the effectiveness of programs and services; and,
- the organizations' ability to plan for the changing needs of older adults.

Using the COLLAGE assessment information tool to capture essential health and wellness information has great potential to help resource-limited subsidized housing sites help older adults live and age more successfully. Similarly, aging services organizations that offer affordable housing are looking for ways to improve their ability to advise their clients on matters of health, wellness and successful aging; improve their management of risk; and more successfully link their clients to targeted community programs and services that facilitate independence and reduce the risk of premature institutionalization.

More information is available from COLLAGE:

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