



Florida Association of
Aging Services Providers

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Florida Association of Aging Services Providers

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Message from the President

By Andrea Busada, Broward County Elderly and Veterans Services



With each newsletter publication, I struggle to write the President's Message. I look back on those written by my predecessors and they are so eloquent and convey so much knowledge and compassion and wit. In the face of this unprecedented crisis, I am at a real loss. As Floridians, we pride ourselves on

being prepared for and handling emergencies, but this is something that no one has ever faced. We can't waste our time or emotional energy on "shoulda woulda coulda" mental exercises. We must focus on how to help people and how to keep each other and ourselves

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This Issue's Sponsors





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safe with the resources we have at hand. As part of that, we can take advantage of this incredible network we have – each other. Please continue to share with all of us any ideas, resources, words of wisdom, innovative practices, creative solutions, inspirational readings, etc. that would undoubtedly help others. No idea is too big or too small – everything helps. If you have anything to share, please forward it to the incredible team at our management firm, Margaret Lynn Duggar and Associates, and they'll distribute it to

our membership. Please stay safe and healthy through these frightening times.



May is Older Americans Month

Throughout the United States, older adults make their mark every day as volunteers, employees, employers, parents, grandparents, mentors, and advocates by offering their time, talents, and experience to the benefit of our communities.

For 57 years, Older Americans Month (OAM) recognizes these contributions. Led by the [Administration for Community Living](#) (ACL) each May, OAM also provides resources to help older Americans stay healthy and independent, and materials to help communities support and celebrate their citizens.

This year's OAM theme, Make Your Mark, highlights older adults' unique and lasting contributions to their communities—everything from sharing a story with grandchildren to leaving a legacy of community action. In the spirit of this theme, here are a few ways to make your mark all year long:

Volunteer your time. Local schools, shelters, food kitchens, and hospitals always need support. Help a neighbor by prepping a meal, picking up groceries, or giving them a ride. Or, take time to pass on your knowledge. Why not tutor a student who could use extra help in math, music, or science?



MAKE YOUR MARK: MAY 2020

Share your story. There are so many ways to do this, from showing your grandkids around your old neighborhood to writing a book. Take a class and learn how to express yourself with the arts! Or, assemble a photo album of important moments in your life.

Get involved in your neighborhood. Join a homeowner or resident association, organize a block party, or sign up for a book club or other social group. Have a green thumb? Small projects like planting flowers in your yard or cleaning up the community park have a big impact.



Need OAM resources or want to learn more? Visit the official website, acl.gov/oam, and follow ACL on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).



The Coronavirus and the Senior Network

By Darrell Drummond, Council on Aging of St. Lucie



These are trying times for all of us around the world. No less so in Florida and no group is more at risk than our senior population above the age of sixty (60). The senior network has been providing services and support to seniors in Florida for over fifty (50) years. Our ability to create a large network within our communities to address the unmet needs of our seniors has been the cornerstone for our success in providing the most comprehensive and economically efficient services to seniors. These services have kept seniors healthier and allowed them to remain within their homes and not be prematurely placed in long term care facilities.

This virus and our need to socially distance ourselves has put all of us in a crisis state. Lead agencies depend upon funding from the State and Federal

government to help us administer these vital programs. The formula for payment for our services has always been tied to the services we provide. During this outbreak, we have been forced to close many of our facilities, furlough many of our employees and yet, provide additional services to seniors within our community; client or not, as the need has grown.

Our challenges are many; how do we remain connected to our current clients, how do we serve the new and increased demand for service, how do we provide for our employees' safety, all while not receiving funding during this period? As a non-profit, the last thing we want and/or can afford are loan monies which are used for operation. This has always been a recipe for failure.

Our State has stepped up and provided additional funds for meals for both our clients and the general senior population. Where this is very needed and beneficial, the ability of our meal providers to meet the increased demand has been difficult. There have been suggestions of allowing for more volunteers to assist in delivery at



Council on Aging
of St. Lucie, Inc.

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this time. We continue to want to be sure that any and all volunteers are screened ahead of sending them into our seniors' homes. It has been suggested that we can partner and negotiate with local restaurants to provide the meals. However, most restaurants meal costs are far above the costs we currently pay for a meal; reducing significantly the number of seniors who can be fed.

Additionally, there have been suggestions that Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) should step in and contract directly to provide these services. That seems to "imply" that lead agencies lack the knowledge, expertise and ability to provide these services at this time; of course, that is not the case. Rather, what we lack is the financial assistance to ensure that lead agencies get support and not lose out on the revenues associated with the delivery of services.



Let me hasten to add, our AAA's have been very helpful during this period and are only responding to the directions given by DOEA. We need to find ways where the leadership at all levels, work to maintain this critical network. The last thing we want to occur during this pandemic is the destruction of the most successful system for assisting seniors in Florida.

As I always say, you can't help anyone if you can't keep your doors open!

Fact Sheet Released with Best Practices to Serve People with Disabilities during COVID-19



The Center for Dignity in Healthcare for People with Disabilities released a new [fact sheet](#) for health care professionals describing best practices for health care when serving people with disabilities. It is a quick reference guide suitable for posting and is based on guidance from the Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights.



Sanofi and GSK to Join Forces in Unprecedented Vaccine Collaboration to Fight COVID-19

Courtesy of GlaxoSmithKline



Companies to combine innovative technologies to develop an adjuvanted COVID-19 vaccine

Candidate vaccine expected to enter clinical trials in the second half of 2020 and, if successful, to be available in the second half of 2021

London, Paris; 14 April 2020 – Sanofi and GSK today announce that they have signed a letter of intent to enter into a collaboration to develop an adjuvanted vaccine for COVID-19, using innovative technology from both companies, to help address the ongoing pandemic.

Sanofi will contribute its S-protein COVID-19 antigen, which is based on recombinant DNA technology. This technology has produced an exact genetic match to proteins found on the surface of the virus, and the DNA sequence encoding this antigen has been combined into the DNA of the baculovirus expression platform, the basis of Sanofi's licensed recombinant influenza product in the US.

GSK will contribute its proven pandemic adjuvant technology to the collaboration. The use of an adjuvant can be of particular importance in a pandemic situation since it may reduce the amount of vaccine protein required per dose, allowing more vaccine doses to be produced and therefore contributing to protect more people.

Paul Hudson, CEO Sanofi, said: "As the world faces this unprecedented global health crisis, it is clear that no one company can go it alone. That is why Sanofi is continuing to complement its expertise and resources with our peers, such as GSK, with the goal to create and supply sufficient quantities of vaccines that will help stop this virus."



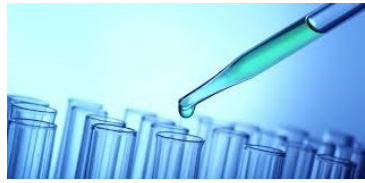
Emma Walmsley, CEO GSK, said: "This collaboration brings two of the world's largest vaccines companies together. By combining our science and our technologies, we believe we can help accelerate the global effort to develop a vaccine to protect as many people as possible from COVID-19."

The combination of a protein-based antigen together with an adjuvant, is well-established and used in a number of vaccines available today. An adjuvant is added to some vaccines to enhance the immune response, and has been shown to create a stronger and longer lasting immunity against infections than the vaccine alone. It can also improve the likelihood of delivering an effective vaccine that can be manufactured at scale.

The companies plan to initiate phase I

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clinical trials in the second half of 2020 and, if successful and subject to regulatory considerations, aim to complete the development required for availability by the second half of 2021.

As previously announced by Sanofi, development of the recombinant-based COVID-19 vaccine candidate is being supported through funding and a collaboration with the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), in the US. The companies plan to discuss funding support with other governments and global institutions prioritising global access.

BARDA Director, Rick A. Bright, Ph.D., said: “Strategic alliances among vaccine industry leaders are essential to make a coronavirus vaccine available as soon as possible. Development of the adjuvanted recombinant-based COVID-19 vaccine candidate holds the potential to lower the vaccine dose to provide vaccine to a greater number of people to end this pandemic, and help the world become better prepared or even prevent future coronavirus outbreaks.”

The companies have set up a Joint Collaboration Task Force, co-chaired by David Loew, Global Head of Vaccines, Sanofi and Roger Connor, President Vaccines, GSK. The taskforce will seek to mobilise resources from both companies to look for every opportunity to accelerate the development of the candidate vaccine.

Considering the extraordinary humanitarian and financial challenge of the pandemic,

both companies believe that global access to COVID-19 vaccines is a priority and are committed to making any vaccine that is developed through the collaboration affordable to the public and through mechanisms that offer fair access for people in all countries.

This new collaboration marks a significant milestone in Sanofi’s and GSK’s ongoing contributions to help fight COVID-19. The companies have entered into a Material Transfer Agreement to enable them to start working together immediately. Definitive terms of the collaboration are expected to be finalised over the next few weeks.

About Sanofi

Sanofi is dedicated to supporting people through their health challenges. We are a global biopharmaceutical company focused on human health. We prevent illness with vaccines, provide innovative treatments to fight pain and ease suffering. We stand by the few who suffer from rare diseases and the millions with long-term chronic conditions. With more than 100,000 people in 100 countries, Sanofi is transforming scientific innovation into healthcare solutions around the globe. Sanofi, Empowering Life

About GSK

GSK is a science-led global healthcare company with a special purpose: to help people do more, feel better, live longer. GSK is the leading manufacturer of vaccines globally. For further information please visit www.gsk.com

Literacy and Dementia



Scientists at Columbia University found that literacy could be a factor in your ability to fend off dementia as you grow older. The results of their [study](#) were published in the online issue of the journal *Neurology*. Their objective was to “investigate whether illiteracy was associated with greater risk of prevalent and incident dementia and more rapid cognitive decline among older adults with low education.” Researchers studied 983 individuals over the age of 65 who had four or less years of schooling. Literacy was self-reported (“Did you ever learn to read or write?”).

Neuropsychological tests were performed on memory, language and visuospatial abilities. Participants retok the tests every 18 months to 2 years for an average of 4 years. Functional, cognitive, and medical data were reviewed at each

visit (baseline and the follow ups) and dementia diagnoses were made based on standard criteria.

According to the study, participants who did not learn to read or write were almost 3 times as likely to have dementia at baseline compared to literate participants. Among those who did not have dementia at the beginning of the study, illiterate participants were twice as likely to develop dementia. While illiterate participants displayed worse memory, language, and visuospatial functioning at baseline than literate participants, literacy was not associated with rate of cognitive decline.

The findings of this study are part of a long term study over the past three decades. While education can be linked to better health outcomes, a major goal of the study was to learn how literacy correlates with someone’s ability to maintain brain health as they age. Scientists believe that literacy may be protective for brain health later in life. Researchers also compared the positive effects that learning to read can have on the mind to those that exercise can have on the body.

Loneliness in the Workplace



According to a [study](#) released by Cigna Corp., loneliness is having an impact on the workplace as employees have less contact with others and increased reliance on electronic devices and their attention is drawn to screens on tablets, phones and laptops. The study found that the use of Twitter, Facebook and other social media also can lead to loneliness, with very heavy users reporting that they are “significantly more likely to feel alone, isolated, left out and without companionship.”

The study revealed that:

- Lonely workers say they are less engaged, less productive, and report lower retention rates;
- They are twice as likely to miss a day of work due to illness and five times more likely to miss work due to stress;
- 12 percent of lonely workers say they believe their work is lower quality than it should be;
- Lonely workers say they think about quitting their job more than twice as often as non-lonely workers; and
- Remote workers are more likely than non-remote workers to always or sometimes feel alone.

The increasing use of technology, telecommuting, remote work and the on-demand work culture are causing Americans to be more stressed and less rested. They are also spending more time on social media and

less time interacting in-person with friends, family and colleagues.

Other key findings were:

- Three in five Americans (61%) report that they are lonely;
- Men are slightly lonelier than women;
- Younger people (18-22) are lonelier than older people (72+); and
- Those living in urban and suburban communities are less lonely than those in rural areas.



All generations experienced significant increases of loneliness in the last year. It is reported that retirees are the least lonely group by employment status. Baby Boomers and the Greatest Generation feel less alone than younger generations. Baby Boomers and older generations are most likely to feel there are people they can talk to and who really understand them. For older generations that are still employed, Baby Boomers are less isolated and more fulfilled by their work than younger respondents (Gen Z and Millennials).

With an increasing number of employees social distancing and working remotely, loneliness and stress will likely shift further in the future.

Resources

- [Cigna Takes Action to Combat the Rise of Loneliness and Improve Mental Wellness in America](#)
- [Loneliness is at Epidemic Levels in America](#)
- [Substituting Emails for Water Cooler Chats Can Be Lonely](#)



Recognize a Valuable Service Employee and a Senior Volunteer with a FASP Award!

The 2020 FASP Awards Committee is accepting nominations for the Humana Best Direct Service Employee of the Year and the Humana Senior Volunteer of the Year awards.

The deadline for submissions is **Tuesday, June 30, 2020.**

FASP Members are encouraged to nominate a Florida aging service employee or senior volunteer who has:

- Added value to the service benefiting and being delivered to elders
- Gone above and beyond to provide customer service and ensure customer satisfaction
- Developed community resources and support for provided services
- Demonstrated a high level of commitment to excellence

The Humana Best Direct Service Employee of the Year Award acknowledges an employee who makes a difference in the lives of seniors individually or through a unit, group, agency or organization.

The Humana Senior Volunteer of the Year Award acknowledges the accomplishments of a Senior Volunteer who serves clients.

FASP will present these awards during the Florida Conference on Aging to honor the dedication of Florida service employees and volunteers. The 2020 Florida Conference on Aging will be held August 24-26, at the Caribe Royale in Orlando, Florida.

Due to the generosity of Humana, Award winners will receive \$500 for themselves and \$500 for their agency, one year complimentary membership in FASP, complimentary single-day registration to the Florida Conference on Aging on Tuesday, August 25 and 1 night hotel stay to receive their award.

You can submit nominations at:

Humana Best Direct Service Employee of the Year

<https://fasp.wufoo.com/forms/fasp-best-direct-service-employee-award-nomination/>

Humana Senior Volunteer of the Year

<https://fasp.wufoo.com/forms/fasp-senior-volunteer-of-the-year-award/>

If you have questions, please contact moreinfo@fasp.net or call **(850) 222-3524.**

Alzheimer's Disease to Increase in Minorities



According to recent studies utilized by the Alzheimer's Association, Hispanics and African Americans in the United States will see the largest increase in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias between 2015 and 2060. Dementia is term for a particular group of symptoms. The characteristic symptoms are difficulties with memory, language, problem-solving and other thinking skills that affect a person's ability to perform everyday activities. Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia.

It is estimated that about 5.8 million people in the United States have Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. By 2060, it is predicted to rise to approximately 14 million people, with minority populations being the most affected.

Variations in medical conditions, health related behaviors and socioeconomic risk factors across racial groups likely account for most of the differences in risk of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Health conditions such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes, which are associated with an

increased risk for Alzheimer's and other dementias, are believed to account for these differences, as they are more prevalent in African American and Hispanic people. Socioeconomic characteristics, including lower levels and quality of education, higher rates of poverty, and greater exposure to adversity and discrimination, may also increase risk in their communities (and may in turn contribute to the health conditions mentioned).

There are several resources available on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias that will aid in the understanding, prevention strategies and targeting of services for those most at risk for developing the disease. Materials are available in both English and Spanish for the public and health care professionals.

Resources

- [2020 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures](#)
- [Racial and ethnic estimates of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias in the United States \(2015–2060\) in adults aged ≥65 years](#)
- [Alzheimer's Association](#)
- [Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center](#)
- [CDC's Alzheimer's and Healthy Aging Program](#)



Census 2020 - Every Response Counts

The 2020 Census is more than a population count. According to Florida Counts, each year roughly \$800 billion in federal funding is effectively allocated based on population data from the census. The funding includes investments in the economy for infrastructure, transportation, the arts, education, elder care and children's programs. It informs how federal funding is allocated to programs such as Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and to provide housing assistance for older adults.

Curious about what other programs are impacted by census data? [Download this report](#) to see a full list.

Resources

- [United States Census 2020](#)
- [Florida Counts Census 2020](#)

Census information is also used to determine distribution of political representation. It is estimated 16 states could potentially each lose or gain Congressional seats based on the 2020 count.

Florida had the third largest number of omissions in the 2010 Census, excluding 1.4 million people. According to Florida Counts, for each individual residing in Florida who is not counted, the state loses \$1,445 per year or \$14,445 over ten years. It is believed that Florida lost more than \$20 billion in federal funding between 2010 and 2020 because of omissions in the 2010 Census. Those federal funds could have been used for economic development, transportation, or infrastructure as a few examples.

You Can Still Respond

April 1 is a reference date, not a deadline. When you respond online, by phone, or by mail, count everyone living in your home as of April 1.

On April 27th, the Census Bureau started sending reminder notice postcards to an estimated 69 million households that have not responded yet.

How To Respond

The 2020 Census is happening now. You can respond online, by phone, or by mail.

[Learn How](#)





WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

Building Strong Support for Elders

It is expected that all countries will see a substantial growth in the number of older persons between 2015 and 2030. It is predicted that the global population of people aged 60 years and older will more than double, from 900 million in 2015 to about 2 billion in 2050. As the aging population grows, the frequency of elder abuse is expected to rise. Elder abuse is a global social issue that deserves the attention of the international community. June 15th has been designated by the United Nations General Assembly as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day to bring attention to this issue.

Key facts:

- Around 1 in 6 older people experience some form of abuse, a figure higher than previously estimated and predicted to rise as populations age worldwide.
- It is estimated that over 10% of those aged 65 and older in the United States experience some form of elder abuse in a given year.
- Elder abuse can be physical, psychological, financial exploitation, neglect and abandonment or sexual abuse.
- Elder abuse can lead to serious physical injuries and long-term psychological consequences.
- Rates of abuse may be higher for older people living in institutions than in the community.

Abuse in Nursing Homes

The United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) conducted a review of abuse of residents in nursing homes. It is estimated that nursing homes provide care to about 1.4 million nursing home residents. GAO analysis of Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

(CMS) data found that, while relatively rare, abuse deficiencies cited in nursing homes more than doubled, increasing from 430 in 2013 to 875 in 2017, with the largest increase in severe cases. Physical and mental/verbal abuse occurred most often in nursing homes, followed by sexual abuse, and staff were more often the perpetrators of the abuse deficiencies cited.

GAO found weaknesses in both CMS's understanding of abuse and in its oversight that need to be addressed. Analysts also found other gaps in CMS's process related to ensuring timely referrals of abuse to law enforcement, tracking abuse referrals, defining abuse substantiation, and sharing information with law enforcement. These gaps affect CMS's oversight of abuse in nursing homes—including the prevention, identification and timely investigation of abuse—and may limit CMS's ability to ensure that nursing homes meet federal requirements for residents to be free from abuse. GAO made six recommendations based on their findings, including that CMS: require state survey agencies to submit data on abuse and perpetrator type; require state survey agencies to immediately refer to law enforcement any suspicion of a crime; and develop guidance on what abuse information nursing homes should self-report.

Resources

- [United Nations—World Elder Abuse Awareness Day](#)
- [Elder Justice Initiative - About Elder Abuse](#)
- [Elder Abuse Prevention Program](#)
- [Administration for Community Living](#)
- [USC Center on Elder Mistreatment](#)
- [Improved Oversight Needed to Better Protect Residents from Abuse](#)



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Promoting Independence in our Community



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Resources

April is National Volunteer Month

This month is dedicated to honoring all of the volunteers in our communities as well as encouraging volunteerism throughout the month. We appreciate all of the volunteers who provide services to the aging population.



- [Senior Living | Volunteer with Seniors](#)
- [Aging In Place | How To Volunteer As A Senior](#)
- [Florida Department of Elder Affairs | Volunteers](#)

Upcoming Events



[Register Here](#)



For more information, please visit
FALA's [website](#)



Thank You Sponsors!



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<https://www.seniorresourceassociation.org/>



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North Miami Foundation For
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and other services to support independent living



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<https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/en/government/departments/aging>

<https://www.northmiamifoundationforseniors.org/>