



NEWS RELEASE – Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc.

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AAA7 Hosts “Aging Together” Advocacy Event

The Area Agency on Aging District 7 (AAA7) recently hosted a special advocacy event to bring together legislators and those working in and representing the aging network to discuss priorities and needs for older adults in the community. “Aging Together: A Community Conversation” included representatives from the AAA7’s ten-county core district that includes Adams, Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton. Attendees included local, state and federal legislators and representatives, in addition to providers, mobility managers and others who provide services to older adults.

After a welcome by Jamie Herrmann, Executive Director of the AAA7, attendees heard from Kelsey Bergfeld, Chief Policy Officer for the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging (o4a). Bergfeld shared state budget priorities for the association and Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) throughout Ohio that include an ask for additional flexible funding for programs to help meet the growing needs of older adults to remain safely in their communities. In addition, participants heard testimonies from local Senior Centers on the impact of these programs in the local community.

Following formal presentations, participants engaged in a roundtable discussion on top needs for older adults in their community and how flexible funding could help. Top areas identified by attendees included: meals, transportation, wait list reduction, activities such as digital literacy and exercise classes, ramps and home modifications, home care, the workforce, and volunteer recruitment. This information was used to develop a summary that was presented to legislators to keep them informed of needs in local communities.

“The AAA7 strives to be good community partners and we are so very thankful to be able to host an event that brings together consumers, providers, and elected officials of our communities to discuss such important issues,” commented Jamie Herrman, AAA7 Executive Director.

For more information about services offered through the AAA7, call 1-800-582-7277 or e-mail info@aaa7.org.

Your local Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc. provides services on a non-discriminatory basis. These services are available to help older adults and those with disabilities live safely and independently in their residence of choice through services paid for by Medicare, Medicaid, other federal and state resources, as well as private pay. The AAA7’s Resource Center is also available to anyone in the community looking for information or assistance with long-term care options. Available Monday through Friday from 8:00 am until 4:30 pm, the Resource Center is a valuable contact for learning more about options and what programs and services are available for assistance.

Those interested in learning more can call toll-free at 1-800-582-7277 (TTY: 711). Here, individuals can speak directly with a specially-trained Resource Specialist who will assist them with information

surrounding the programs and services that are available to best serve their needs. The Agency also offers an in-home assessment at no cost for those who are interested in learning more. Information is also available on www.aaa7.org, or the Agency can be contacted through e-mail at info@aaa7.org. The Agency also has a Facebook page located at www.facebook.com/AreaAgencyOnAgingDistrict7.

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Pictured top row, left to right: AAA7 Executive Director Jamie Herrmann, Ohio State Representative Mark Johnson, and US Congressman David Taylor. Pictured bottom row are participants at the event participating in a break-out session to discuss needs for older adults in our communities.