

# The Aging Network

Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc.

Serving Adams, Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike,  
Ross, Scioto and Vinton Counties in Ohio

**SPRING 2019**



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Stay in touch with the  
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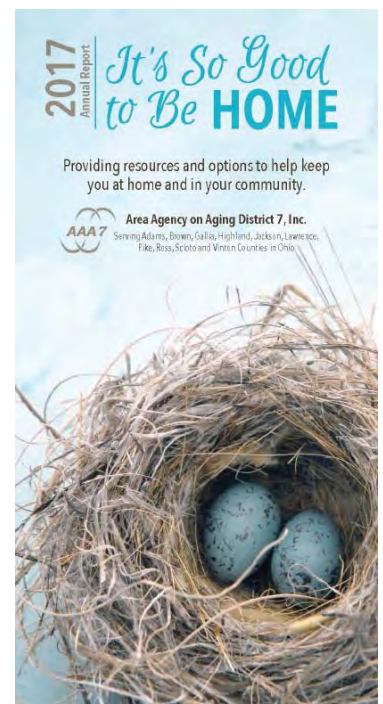
## Annual Report Released

Helpful information including Agency highlights, facts, and figures were included in the Area Agency on Aging District 7's (AAA7) most recent Annual Report that was presented during the Agency's Annual Meeting at The Ohio State University Endeavor Center in Piketon, Ohio. The AAA7 provides services to ten counties in Ohio including Adams, Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton.

The AAA7's 2017 Annual Report, "It's So Good to Be Home," highlights the variety of programs and initiatives made possible through the work of AAA7 staff, the Board of Trustees, Advisory Council, and provider organizations throughout the ten counties served by the AAA7. The theme highlights the ways the AAA7 can support people living in their homes and communities by providing resources and options. The programs provided through the AAA7 help older adults and those with disabilities of any age live safely and independently in their own homes through services paid for by Medicare, Medicaid, other federal and state resources, as well as private pay.

"This Annual Report shares the many achievements, commitment and dedication by all who work to make available program options for older adults and those with disabilities," stated Nina R. Keller, Interim Executive Director of the Area Agency on Aging District 7. "As the age wave moves across the nation, we understand the need for quality services in the home and community, and choice when it comes to those services. We are proud of our role to provide to our community a better understanding of resources and options available to help with long-term care options and solutions for remaining at home."

The AAA7 2017 Annual Report is available to view online at the Agency's website, [www.aaa7.org](http://www.aaa7.org). At the home page, click the "About AAA7" link at the top of the menu bar, and then click "Publications". Underneath "Annual Report", click on "2017."



# Featured Program: Hospital2Home

As the name indicates, the AAA7's **Hospital2Home** program helps older adults in the AAA7's 10-county district transition from the hospital to their homes. The program gives eligible patients vouchers for services like personal care and home-delivered meals. To determine those who could benefit from the program, hospital discharge planners and/or social workers identify recently admitted patients who are age 60 or older, not currently on Medicaid, and have a high risk of being readmitted to the hospital. Risk factors include: living alone, having limited access to or no caregivers, being 75 years or older, taking more than six medications, living with more than one chronic condition, and having stayed in the hospital multiple times. Currently, the AAA7 is working with six hospitals in the district with the Hospital2Home program.

Last Summer, the Area Agency on Aging District 7 (AAA7) in Ohio was honored with an Aging Achievement Award by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a). The AAA7 was among 45 local aging programs to receive honors at the n4a Annual Conference & Tradeshow that was held in Chicago, IL. The AAA7 was recognized for achievements with their **Hospital2Home** program.

The 2018 n4a Aging Innovations and Achievement Awards recognized Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and Title VI Native American aging programs that develop and implement cutting-edge approaches to support older adults, people with disabilities and their family caregivers. A part of the criteria for the selection of the honorees was the ease with which other agencies could replicate the program in their communities.

Pictured with the Award are, left to right, Nina Keller, Interim Executive Director; Donna Hurt, Options Coordinator; and Vicky Abdella, Director of Community Programs.



In addition, the AAA7's **Hospital2Home** program was featured in the Rural Health Information Hub, a national online information center on rural health issues, funded by the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy. For more information, log on to [www.ruralhealthinfo.org](http://www.ruralhealthinfo.org).

For more information about the **Hospital2Home** program at the AAA7, contact Vicky Abdella at 1-800-582-7277 or [vabdella@aaa7.org](mailto:vabdella@aaa7.org).

## The Numbers

In Hospital2Home's first year in 2017, over a three month period:

**89%** of patients were not readmitted to the hospital.

**80%** reported that the services they received as a result of the Hospital2Home program helped their recovery process.

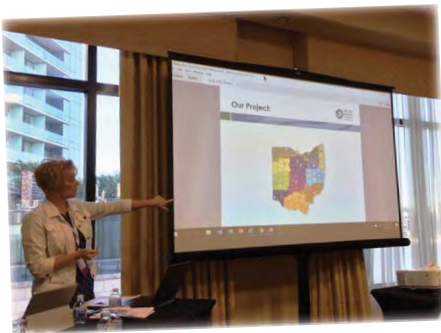


## AAA7 Named Winner of National Contest

The Area Agency on Aging District 7 (AAA7) in Ohio was honored recently by the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) through their “Stories from the Field” contest. The AAA7 was named a Second Place winner in the contest and was therefore invited to present at NASUAD’s national convention that was held in Baltimore, Maryland.

The “Stories from the Field” contest collects examples of business strategies used by disability community-based organizations to sustain or grow their community-based business. The AAA7 has historically served individuals over the age of 60 living with a disability in southern Ohio. After a bidding process in 2014, the AAA7 became a subcontractor for CareSource, a managed care company, to help with care management services for the Ohio Home Care Waiver Program that provides home and community-based services to those under the age of 60 living at home with a disability. The opportunity has allowed the AAA7 to branch out to more populations, now including those from birth to age 59, as well as expanded geographic reach with three additional counties to provide these specific services in, for a total of 13.

Debbie Gulley, RN, Director of Long-Term Care Programs at the AAA7, presented at NASUAD’s national conference about the opportunities presented through the partnership. In addition, Debbie participated in a webinar in October to discuss the same topic.



“We were honored to participate in the Stories from the Field contest,” Debbie commented. “AAA7 expanded our mission to include serving individuals of all ages several years ago. Our work with CareSource was a chance to build on the strengths and resources we employ during our work with seniors. Through the contest, we hoped to share insights and give encouragement to other community-based organizations seeking to try new business opportunities.”

## Ohio Department of Aging Welcomes New Director



Ursel J. McElroy was appointed by Governor Mike DeWine in January 2019 to direct the Ohio Department of Aging and administer the State Plan on Aging. Director McElroy represents the interests of older adults in Ohio’s executive branch of government and oversees the coordination of long-term services and supports funded by the federal Older Americans Act, Medicaid, and other federal, state, and local dollars and provided in home and community settings, as well as care facilities. She has more than 25 years of experience in local and state government, holding key positions at the Ohio Department of Youth Services, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, and the Ohio Attorney General’s Office.

Director McElroy served as Deputy Director of Education and Policy at the Ohio Attorney General’s Office for a decade, during which she managed education, policies, programs, and initiatives impacting victims of crime, such as domestic violence, sexual violence, victim notification, and crimes committed against children, older adults, and people with disabilities. She chaired the Attorney General’s Elder Abuse Commission and managed the establishment of the Ohio Elder Justice Initiative.

Prior to joining the Ohio Attorney General’s Office, Director McElroy was chair of the Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services, a supervisor and investigator for adult protective services, and a case manager for a senior services levy program. She is a leader and visionary in the field of aging, hosting and planning Ohio’s first Summit on Aging, the state’s first Elder Abuse Research Symposium, and the Elder Financial Exploitation Symposium. She has presented at prominent events such as the White House Conference on Aging, and is the recipient of the Ohio Coalition for Adult Protective Services Outstanding Service Award.

Director McElroy’s deep sensitivity and concern for older Ohioans and their caregivers is clear. She is committed to upholding the fundamental principle that older adults can live where they choose, with the people they choose, and with the ability to participate fully in their communities.

She received a bachelor’s degree in psychology and a master’s degree in public administration from The Ohio State University.



**Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc.**

F32-URG, PO Box 500 • 160 Dorsey Drive • Rio Grande, OH 45674-0500

Toll-Free Number: (800) 582-7277 • TTY: 711 (Relay Ohio)

Website: [www.aaa7.org](http://www.aaa7.org) • E-Mail: [info@aaa7.org](mailto:info@aaa7.org) • Find Us on Facebook!

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*Your local Area Agency on Aging District 7, Inc. serves the following counties in Ohio: Adams, Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton. Services are rendered on a non-discriminatory basis. Those interested in learning more about the services provided through the Area Agency on Aging District 7 can call toll-free at 1-800-582-7277. Here, individuals can talk 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.*

## **Mark Your Calendar!**

### **April 10th - CEU Training**

“Multigenerational Family Dynamics”

More Info: [www.aaa7.org](http://www.aaa7.org) and “Training” Tab

### **May 20-24 and May 28-31 - Senior Citizens Art Show and Essay/Poetry Contest**

More Info: [www.aaa7.org](http://www.aaa7.org) and “About AAA7” and “Special Events”

### **June 6th - CEU Training**

“Ethical Issues in Case Management”

More Info: [www.aaa7.org](http://www.aaa7.org) and “Training” Tab

### **June 19th - CEU Training**

“Operation Street Smart”

More Info: [www.aaa7.org](http://www.aaa7.org) and “Training” Tab

### **August 23rd - Appreciation Brunch**

#### **Wellness Programs**

Stay up-to-date on upcoming class dates through our website - [www.aaa7.org](http://www.aaa7.org). Link to our Wellness Schedule is located at the bottom of the page in the yellow box.

## **Quick Bits**

### **Tax Help**

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program provides free tax assistance and preparation for low and moderate income filers, particularly to those age 60 and up.

To find a location near you and its hours, go to [aarp.org/findtax help](http://aarp.org/findtaxhelp).

### **Volunteer Advocates Needed!**

The AAA7 Ombudsman Program is looking for volunteers interested in serving as an advocate for nursing home residents. Volunteers help residents resolve problems and advocate for their rights, with the overall goal of enhancing the quality of life and care for all long-term care consumers. For more information, call 1-800-582-7277 or e-mail [info@aaa7.org](mailto:info@aaa7.org).

### **Art Show Call for Entries!**

Entries for our Senior Citizens Art Show and Essay/Poetry Contest in May will be accepted through May 6th at our Rio Grande Office. Please see our website for more information or call 1-800-582-7277 or e-mail [info@aaa7.org](mailto:info@aaa7.org).