

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



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Melissa Dever Named Executive Director

Melissa Dever, BSW, LSW, was recently named Executive Director of the Area Agency on Aging District 7 (AAA7), according to Charles Harper, President of the AAA7 Board of Trustees.

Dever joins the AAA7 from the Alzheimer's Association, where she most recently served as the Program Director of the Cincinnati and Miami Valley Chapters. Other work experience includes Director of the Patient Navigator Program at Holzer Health Systems, and previously with the AAA7 where she served as an Assessor/Case Manager. Dever earned her Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Rio Grande.



The Area Agency on Aging District 7 administers home and community-based support programs for older adults and those with disabilities utilizing federal, state and local funding for a variety of programs and services in a ten-county southern Ohio area including Adams, Brown, Gallia, Highland, Jackson, Lawrence, Pike, Ross, Scioto and Vinton.

In her new role, Dever serves as the chief administrator, directing the affairs of the AAA7 and maintaining responsibility for the implementation of policies and programs for the benefit of older adults and/or at-risk individuals. She also represents the Agency at national, state and local level meetings and conferences, and advocates on behalf of the population served by the Agency.

Dever is a lifelong resident of Vinton County and lives on a small farm with her husband and three children. Dever raises horses and loves to go horseback riding and camping with her family. She currently coaches grade school volleyball and has coached other various sports over the years.

"I am honored to join the AAA7 as the new Executive Director," said Dever. "I feel as though I've come full circle, as I worked at the AAA7 for eight years early on in my career and this work ignited my passion for working with the geriatric population. I am beyond excited to lead my fellow professionals and serve my Southeastern Ohio community."

AAA7 Receives Accreditation of Case Management for Long-Term Services and Supports

The Area Agency on Aging District 7 (AAA7) has received Accreditation of Case Management for Long-Term Services and Supports from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) for its PASSPORT and Assisted Living Medicaid Waiver Programs for a period of two years. Earning NCQA's Accreditation of Case Management for Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) demonstrates that an organization is dedicated to coordinating the delivery of care in a person-centered and integrated manner to help individuals function optimally in their preferred setting.



NCQA standards are set high to encourage organizations coordinating LTSS to continuously enhance the quality of services they deliver, and are intended to help organizations achieve the highest level of performance possible, increase adherence to care guidelines, and create an environment of continuous improvement. NCQA's Accreditation of Case Management for LTSS is a voluntary review process.

AAA7 programs that were part of the accreditation review included both the PASSPORT and Assisted Living Medicaid Waiver Programs. AAA7 Care Managers working with both of these programs continuously monitor the health and safety of enrolled individuals and help them remain in their preferred residence by arranging services and supports to meet their needs. Medicaid waivers allow individuals with disabilities and chronic conditions to receive care in their homes and communities rather than in long-term care facilities, hospitals or intermediate care facilities with the goal to prevent or delay nursing home placement.

Debbie Gulley, RN, Director of Long-Term Care Programs at the AAA7 shared, "Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) can use accreditation to establish key structures and processes needed to pursue contracts with a variety of purchasers of Case Management services. The Ohio Department of Aging has encouraged AAAs to pursue NCQA accreditation and we are very proud that our Agency (AAA7) is the first rural AAA in Ohio to achieve accreditation."

Lisa Adams, LSW, PASSPORT Supervisor at the AAA7, who assisted with AAA7's accreditation process with NCQA, added, "Accreditation proves to purchasers that we provide high quality, evidence-based care management for the individuals we serve and are successful at preventing or delaying higher cost nursing home placement."

NCQA is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving health care quality. NCQA accredits and certifies a wide range of health care organizations. It also recognizes clinicians and practices in key areas of performance. NCQA's Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®) is the most widely used performance measurement tool in health care. NCQA's website (ncqa.org) contains information to help consumers, employers and others make more informed health care choices. NCQA can be found online at ncqa.org, on Twitter @ncqa, on Facebook at facebook.com/NCQA.org/ and on LinkedIn at linkedin.com/company/ncqa.

Pictured above is Lisa Adams (left) and Debbie Gulley (right) with the official certificate from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

Our Resource Center is OPEN and available to answer your questions about home and community-based resources in your community!
1-800-582-7277 ▪ info@aaa7.org



AAA7 Welcomes Cyrus/Promotes Reed-Powell

Karen Cyrus was recently named Director of Business Management at the Area Agency on Aging District 7 (AAA7).

Cyrus joins the AAA7 from TYKMA, Inc. in Chillicothe and Control Micro Systems, Inc. in Winter Park, FL, where she was the Chief Financial Officer managing all financial and treasury functions of the sister businesses. Other work experience includes Flour-BXWT in Piketon, where she served as the Controller; The Kitchen Collection in Chillicothe, where she was the Director of Finance and the Corporate Controller; and Ohio Precious Metals, LLC, in Jackson, where she served as Chief Financial Officer.



Cyrus is a Certified Public Accountant and received both her bachelor's degree in Accounting and master's degree in Business Administration from Ohio University.

In her new role at the AAA7, Cyrus oversees the financial affairs and treasury management of the agency and all matters pertaining to oversight of fiscal operations. She develops and directs agency and program budgets in partnership with the Executive Director, as well as preparation of financial analysis of operations for the guidance of management.

Cyrus is a native of Cheshire, Ohio, and currently resides in Jackson with her husband. She has a son, Andy, and daughter-in-law, Emily, who reside in Dublin, Ohio; a daughter, Kiersten, who resides in Tampa, Florida; and one step-daughter, Jackie Ann, who resides in Chillicothe. In her spare time, Cyrus enjoys traveling, running, personal training her clients and leading group exercise classes as a certified personal trainer. She also serves as the Treasurer on the board of the Jackson Area YMCA.

On joining the AAA7, Cyrus shares, "I am very excited to have joined the AAA7 family and share in the mission to enrich the lives of our seniors and others who benefit from our services."



Teresa Reed-Powell, LSW, was recently promoted to Director of Community Services at the Area Agency on Aging District 7 (AAA7).

Reed-Powell has been with the AAA7 since 2004, joining as a PASSPORT Care Manager and also served as a PASSPORT Team Leader. Most recently, she was the Supervisor of the Specialized Recovery Services Program (SRS). PASSPORT is a Medicaid Waiver Program that provides services in the home for those age 60 and over who meet a nursing home level of care. The SRS Program supports individuals diagnosed with a severe and persistent mental illness or with a diagnosed chronic condition living at home or in the community.

Prior to joining the AAA7, Reed-Powell worked as a mental health case manager for Shawnee Mental Health. She received her bachelor's degree in Psychology and bachelor's degree in Social Work from Wilmington College. She is a graduate of Valley High School in Lucasville.

In her new role, Reed-Powell directs and coordinates programs in the AAA7's department of Community Services including Caregiver Support, Wellness, Hospital2Home, Service Coordination, Veteran Self-Directed, Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, Home Repair Program, and HEAP Outreach, in addition to coordinating contracting and monitoring of the providers for Older Americans Act services and coordinating completion of the AAA7 four-year Strategic Plan and yearly Operational Plan development and implementation.

Reed-Powell and her husband, Tim, are life-long Scioto County residents and have two sons: Caleb, a 2022 graduate from Valley High School and Scioto County Career and Technical Center; and Chase, a junior at Valley High School and Scioto County Career and Technical Center.

Trualta Online Portal Helps Family Caregivers

Trualta helps families build skills to manage care at home, improve caregiver confidence, and can reduce caregiver stress by providing the information and resources caregivers often need...all in the comfort of their own homes.

Sponsored by the AAA7, family caregivers are now able to visit the new caregiver portal at aaa7.trualta.com. All you need is a computer, tablet/laptop, or smartphone to access the site anytime it works in your schedule. The site is easy to use for all ages, completely private, and available 24/7.

Anyone caring for an older adult, a grandchild, or individual with intellectual or developmental disabilities will benefit from Trualta's support, whether they are seeking personal care training, safety and fall prevention tips, help in caring for a person with dementia, caregiver wellness ideas, or other support.

For more information, contact the AAA7 Caregiver Support Program at 1-800-582-7277 or e-mail caregiver@aaa7.org. To sign-up for the free caregiver portal through Trualta, log on to aaa7.trualta.com or access through the AAA7's website at www.aaa7.org by clicking on the "Trualta" ad on the main page.

aaa7.trualta.com ←



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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.