



ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

Utah Commission on Aging

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on Aging Chair

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Commission Members

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I have been the chair of the Commission on Aging for the past three years. We have collaborated with organizations to identify opportunities to improve the lives of older adults throughout Utah since the Commission began in 2005. We have had many accomplishments, but I'd like to tell you about one of our most recent ones.

MESSAGE FROM

Commission on Aging Chair Becky Kapp 2014-2015

In the Spring of 2014, at the Sundance Film Festival, a movie debuted that changed the way those of us who work with people who suffer from Alzheimer's, dementia, and other cognitive and physical disabilities look at the world. "Alive Inside: The Story of Music and Memory" documents how a social worker named Dan Cohen began single-handedly changing the lives of people in long-term care—using iPods! The Utah Commission on Aging was instrumental in working with other community partners to develop the Music and Memory Utah Coalition on the heels of the documentary screening. We all should be proud of this Sundance legacy that is alive and well in Utah.

Jewish Family Service staff received training from Cohen, and in collaboration with the Utah Health Care Association, is making this program available to nursing homes statewide as well as to individuals throughout the state living with dementia. Intermountain Homecare and Hospice makes this program available to its clients as well. The Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) throughout the state have donation boxes to collect donations of Apple products that can be used to bring a new life to those affected with dementia and Alzheimer's.

Throughout 2014 there were several opportunities to view the movie "Alive Inside" before it was made available on Amazon and Netflix. The official launch of the Music and Memory Utah campaign took place December 9, 2014 with musician Kurt Bestor performing for the residents of the William E Christoffersen Salt Lake Veterans Home. The Commission on Aging continues to lead this movement in conjunction with its other partners.

I am proud to be a part of an organization that is dedicated to finding ways to improve the lives of older adults in Utah.

Sincerely,

Becky Kapp
Chair, Utah Commission on Aging

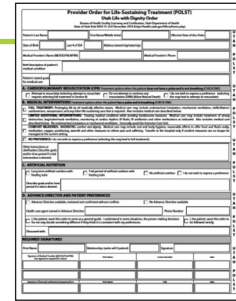
1

Oversaw distribution of **1,084 iPods** with personalized playlists to Utahns living with dementia.



2

Developed, released and began training on use of an **improved POLST form** to document End-of-Life care preferences.



3

Facilitated uploading of POLST forms from **two Avalon nursing homes** (600 records) to the cHIE.



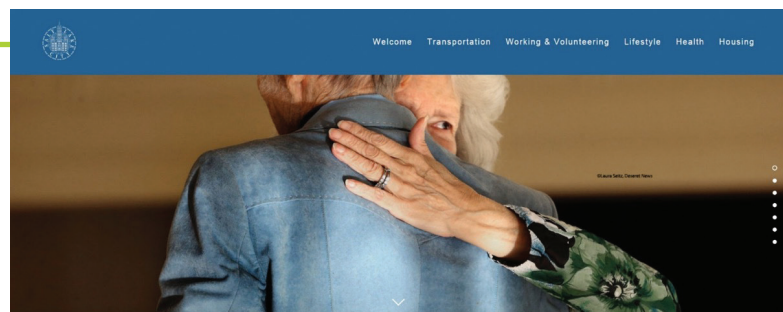
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Orchestrated meetings with a commercial developer of a cloud-based application linking POLST forms to Electronic Medical Records to explore the feasibility of **a commercial ePOLST solution.**

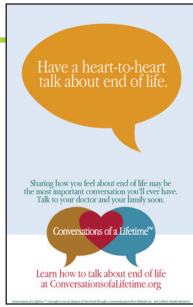


5

Counseled Salt Lake City on launch of **aginginslc.com** to assist residents with aging-in-place.

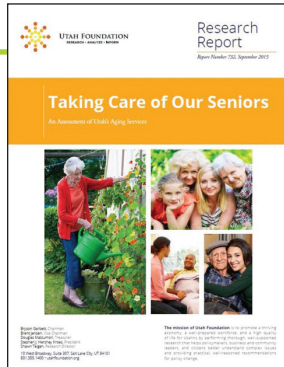


6



Participated in deployment of **community advance care planning** with Cambia Health Foundation and The Conversation Project Utah Steering Committee.

7



Assisted Mountainlands Association of Governments in preparing **a study on aging services in Utah** which reported more than 10% of Utah seniors rely on nutrition programs like Meals on Wheels and every county has a waiting list for caregiver respite services.

8



Counseled veterans seeking long-term services supports through the new Connecting Older Veterans (Especially Rural) to Community or Veteran-Eligible Resources. This type of counseling was formerly offered more widely, through the Aging and Disability Resource Connection.

9



Participated in establishing a **Geriatric Education Center** at the U of U College of Nursing with support for nursing home staff-member training provided by federal Health and Resource Services Administration (HRSA).

About us



The Utah Commission on Aging

Mission Statement:

To promote the dignity,
independence, and
quality of life of older
persons through advocacy,
information, and the
coordination of public
and private programs and
services benefitting them.

Website

<http://aging.utah.edu/programs/utah-coa/index.php>

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