Over many years, a number of academic/community partnerships have worked independently to develop, evaluate and bring to scale participant-centered, evidence-based self-management and health promotion programs offered in community settings for older Americans. Many of the programs developed by these partnerships have since become critical pieces of the infrastructure that supports older adults with chronic health conditions. Indeed, community-based self-management support is an integral component of the Chronic Care Model. This model presents elements that can improve health outcomes for people with chronic conditions, highlighting the need for connections between healthcare and community resources, integrating patient-centered, evidence-based services that empower patients. And while these programs have succeeded in finding their place in this system working independently so far, the growth and maturation of the programs, combined with the changing environment of healthcare, have prompted new collaboration among the organizations that manage and disseminate these programs. Specifically, the creation of the Evidence-Based Leadership Collaborative (EBLC).

The Evidence-Based Leadership Collaborative (EBLC) is currently a group of thirteen individuals representing a total of 20 evidence-based programs (CAPABLE, Chronic Disease Self-Management suite of Programs, Matter of Balance, EnhanceFitness, EnhanceWellness, Healthy IDEAS, PEARLS, Fit & Strong!, HomeMeds, and Healthy MOVES) as well as five leaders from organizations providing multiple evidence-based programs (Florida Health Networks, Tarrant County Area Agency on Aging (TX), Elder Services of the Merrimack Valley (MA), Fairhill Partners (OH), and Open Hand (CA)). EBLC members are employed by community-based organizations, foundations, healthcare systems, universities and governmental entities and have been directly involved for many years in the development, evaluation and scaling of their individual programs as well as implementation through community-based organizations. The individual program developers met informally for several years and in 2012 formed the EBLC. In 2013, community-based organization leaders responsible for implementing multiple evidence-based programs were asked to join and be part of

All the programs represented by EBLC program developers meet the Administration for Community Living’s (ACL) criteria for highest level of evidence. In addition to the ACL, the
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Arthritis Program, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Innovations Exchange recommend these programs and find them to be the strongest of evidence-based programs. The programs represented by the EBLC are utilized by more than 2,000 agencies in the United States with nearly 400 agencies using more than one program. The mission of the EBLC is to increase delivery of evidence-based programs that improve the health and wellbeing of diverse populations. Together, the council represents more than 300 combined years of experience in developing, evaluating, scaling, implementing and sustaining evidence-based self-management programs. All of the programs have proven effectiveness in published scientific research and all programs have been brought to scale. The EBLC is committed to the following values: ● Person Centeredness – individuals are actively involved in programs and making a difference ● Effectiveness – evidence-based programs focus on outcomes/results ● Collaboration – multi-sector, multi-organizational and interdisciplinary (belief that health is achieved in the community, close to home and through broad-based collaborations) ● Equity and access – social justice, respect of diversity ● Sustainability These values will guide the EBLC as it works towards its vision of an ever increasing number of adults engaged in evidence-based programs that inform, activate and empower them to measurably improve their health and maintain independence.

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