Organization: Fairhill Partners

Organization Description:

Fairhill Partners mission is: Connecting people to opportunities for lifelong learning, intergenerational relationships, and successful aging. A nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization situated on 9.5 acres in Cleveland, Ohio, Fairhill Partners since 1987. It grew out of the vision of a small group of organizations with complementary missions of providing direct and related services to older adults, their lay and professional caregivers, and others who serve them. The group determined that like-minded agencies “living” together in a professional community would encourage collaboration and make best use of available resources. Today, Fairhill Partners is governed by a Board of Directors.

Fairhill Partners offers programs and services for kinship families and adult family caregivers, peer-led activities, evidence-based self-management workshops, physical activity and fall prevention workshops, and much more.

History:

Fairhill Partners began offering A Matter of Balance workshops in 2006 and Chronic Disease Self-Management workshops in 2007. These evidence-based workshops help older adults manage their fear of falling, increase their activity levels, set their own goals to take better care of their health, and improve their quality of life and independence.

Because chronic diseases and falls are among the major causes of death and disability among people aged 60 years and older, Fairhill Partners has added Diabetes Self-Management, Chronic Pain Self-Management, Building Better Caregivers, and Walk with Ease workshops. In addition, Fairhill trains staff and volunteers to be Master Trainers, able to train staff and volunteers to be leaders and coaches of the workshops. Fairhill’s trainers are focused regionally but also provide statewide or other offsite training.

Partners and Funders Fairhill Partners has grown its evidence-based programs through a 12-year partnership with the Western Reserve Area Agency on Aging, and delivers workshops to older adults at more than 70 sites in four Northeast Ohio counties.
Fairhill Partners contracts with Cleveland State University School of Nursing to train all of their Community Health Worker students to be Chronic Disease Self-Management leaders. In addition, it has contracted with the Ohio Department of Aging to Master Train staff, contractors, and volunteers.

We also deliver A Matter of Balance and the Self-Management Resource Center programs in partnership with two health systems.

As an Encore Initiative grantee, Fairhill Partners has collaborated with the Cleveland Foundation to recruit, train and deploy leaders and coaches and bring workshops to underserved Cuyahoga County neighborhoods. In addition, as a collaborator in a multi-agency CDC REACH grant, Fairhill Partners is working to train leaders and coaches in communities where access to health care is a challenge. In collaboration with the City of Cleveland Department of Aging and EMTs, Fairhill Partners delivers fall-prevention workshops in areas of most need.

Fairhill Partners also has collaborated in multiple research projects on the effectiveness of evidence-based programs.

Successes:

Fairhill Partners continues to grow its evidence-based programs in Northeast Ohio. In 2018 Fairhill engaged and empowered more than 1,000 participants in one or more evidence-based programs in urban, suburban, and rural areas. In addition, it trains both older adult volunteers and paid staff as Master Trainers who are able to train staff and volunteers to be leaders and coaches of the workshops.

Lessons learned:

- Outside of securing payment per person or per workshop, the single greatest challenge working with health systems and/or payors is how to increase “uptake” from referral to showing up at a workshop.
- A related issue is the system/providers frustration when they finally get 6 or 7 people to a workshop and you have to tell them, sorry the minimum number of participants to start with session one is 8 or 10.
- Securing BAAs with health care providers/systems/payors can be tedious. Things get bogged down in the respective legal departments. We have successfully executed three BAAs.

Recognition/References
Fairhill has been included in several articles in local publications, such as Boomer Magazine, Shaker Life, Heights Observer, and Crain’s. Our evidence-based work has also been discussed live on WCPN, local NPR affiliate and Channel 20 feature.

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