Living Boldly

News and notes brought to you by the DC Department of Aging and Community Living

Volume 3 Issue 8 A Newsletter for DC Seniors August 2023

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

By Charon P.W. Hines

Dear Seniors,

Just last month, I had the incredible opportunity to attend the USAging Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. This four-day event, held from July 16 -19, brought together professionals from various fields, all united by a common goal: to ensure that every Older American, regardless of their background, color, or Zip code, has access to the resources and services they need to live boldly and thrive in the communities they know and love.

The commitment and passion I witnessed in my fellow attendees reaffirmed my belief in the immense potential for positive change in the aging sector. Throughout the conference, I had the opportunity to participate in a wide range of thought-provoking sessions. From "Capitalizing on Partnerships to Extend the Reach of Kinship Navigator Programs" to "Innovative Strategies to Address Staffing Shortages," every session provided invaluable insights into the challenges and opportunities we face in our mission to improve the lives of older adults.

One particular session that stood out to me was "Access to Services for People with Dementia Aging at Home." It shed light on the pressing need to develop comprehensive support systems for seniors living with dementia, allowing them to age gracefully in the comfort of their homes while maintaining their dignity and independence.

Another session was "Tackling Recurring Abuse and Neglect Through Technical and Systems Innovation." As we strive to create safe environments for our most vulnerable residents and improve the work of our Adult Protective Services Unit, innovative solutions and collaborations with technology providers are essential in combating abuse and neglect effectively.

In addition to the conference sessions, I had the pleasure of visiting a senior wellness center in Salt Lake County. Witnessing firsthand how our counterparts in the West provide critical services to their seniors was both inspiring and insightful. It underscored the importance of continuously exchanging knowledge and experiences to ensure best practices are implemented nationwide.

As I return from this transformative experience, I am more determined than ever to lead with compassion and empathy, building my capacity and my leadership toolkit, while continuing to advocate for a brighter future for DC's oldest residents. My resolve to foster partnerships, embrace innovation and address challenges is stronger, knowing that these efforts will positively impact the lives of countless seniors across the District.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to attend the USAging Conference, and I extend my appreciation to all the organizers and participants who made this event possible. Together, we will work tirelessly to create a Washington, DC where every older adult can live boldly and thrive, regardless of the obstacles they face.

In Service,
Charon P.W. Hines

USAging
Leaders in Aging Well at Home

Director Charon P.W. Hines Represents the District at the 2023 USAging Conference in Salt Lake City

DACL Director Charon P.W. Hines and DACL Program Manager Melanie Johnson met with USAging President Mary Ann Spanos (center).

Last month, Director Hines represented Washington, DC at the USAging 48th Annual Conference & Tradeshow in Salt Lake City, Utah. Emphasizing the theme "Answers on Aging," Director Hines joined thousands of aging professionals throughout the four-day event, all dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for Older Americans across the nation. Her attendance reaffirms our city's unwavering commitment to fostering a thriving and inclusive aging experience for all.

Seniors Joined DACL for the 57th Annual Palisades Parade and Picnic!

2023 Ms. Senior DC, Queen Cerise Turner, and her court join Mayor Bowser for the Palisades 4th of July Parade and Picnic.

Director Hines Joined Mayor Muriel Bowser for the Riggs Crossing Residences Groundbreaking in Ward 4

Last month, Director Hines joined Mayor Muriel Bowser and fellow Lamond Riggs community members to break ground on Riggs Crossing Senior Residences, a new 93-unit senior affordable housing development coming to the Riggs Park community. Riggs Crossing Senior Residences is the second phase of a two-phase project at the intersection of Riggs Road and South Dakota Avenue NE. DACL is incredibly grateful for the Mayor's commitment to creating affordable housing for DC seniors, not just in Ward 4 but across all eight wards.

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