

## **Bi-County Senior Connection**

### **Substance Use Prevention Brief 2019-2020**

**Provider:** Catholic Social Services of Washtenaw  
County

**Target Population:** Older Adults and Caregivers of  
Livingston and Washtenaw Counties

**CMHPSM Priority Area:** Reduce Prescription and  
over-the Counter Drug Abuse/ Misuse

## Get Connected

Advancing prevention messages and providing education about using medication wisely



117

Older Adults Participated in the  
Get Connected Session

### Get Connected Sessions Covered the following:

- Risk Factors associated with alcohol and medication misuse/abuse
- Community Resources
- Signs and Symptoms of Substance Use
- How to get help
- Healthy coping strategies
- Communication with Doctor and/or Pharmacists
- ◆ Medication tools

23 participants provided feedback and expressed learning in 5 of the 6 categories

## CAGE Screening

A brief screening to identify potential problems with alcohol and medications.



125

Older adults were provided the CAGE Screening

**Harm Reduction Planning:** As result of the CAGE screening, 6 older adults a received person centered harm reduction plan.



## PhotoVoice

“It’s Never Too Late”

64 individual views the “It’s Never Too Late” Photovoice Exhibit.

30 individuals shared feedback after viewing the photos, reporting increased awareness of substance use among older adults, as well as the impact substance use can

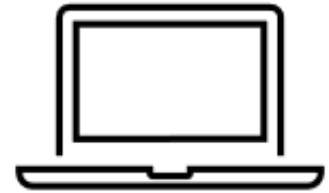


## What we have learned

- Older Adults and caregivers are becoming more educated on the risk and protective factors associated with medication and alcohol misuse or abuse. This is largely in response to the opioid epidemic, as more doctors, pharmacist and other services providers are discussing these important topics with their older adults patients.
- Get Connected Session produce lively conversations on the topics presented. Older Adult participants often feel encouraged to share experience and knowledge, and to ask questions for clarification. Many participants report the session has helped them to learn something new, or is a good refresher course on previously learned information.

## Opportunity

The **COVID-19** Pandemic has increased barriers to services delivery, especially among older adults who are the most vulnerable to the virus. In person meetings, and gatherings have halted. This has majorly impacted the Bi-County Senior Connection.



There is continued opportunity to creatively grow and evolve prevention services to meet the current demand for virtual or telephonic services.

## Community Partners

RSVP

Millpond Manor

Washtenaw County Opioid Summit

Clark East Towers

Cross Street Village

Lincoln Golden Ages

Laurie Terrace

