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Offering Classes and Educational Events: Getting Started

Jordan Lyons, MPA Resource Specialist Supervisor

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Missoula Aging Services' mission

Missoula Aging Services promotes the independence, dignity and health of older adults and those who care for them.

About me

Jordan Lyons, MPA

- Resource Specialist Supervisor
- Formerly Education Coordinator and Resource Specialist
- I have helped organize events on these topics:
- Estate Planning
- Long-Term Care Planning
- Powerful Tools for Caregivers
- Reverse Annuity Mortgages
- SHIP
- Social Security





Defining Education

Activities that improve participants' knowledge or skills.

Many types of activities, including:

- Events
- Media
- One-on-one assistance

Why Educational Events?

Projected Growth in the Older Population in Montana as a Percentage of 2012 Population, by Age Group, 2010-2060



	Year 2012	Year 2060	% of 2012 population calculation: (yr 2060 pop / yr 2012 pop)	% Increase in population relative to 2012 calculation: (yr 2060 pop – yr 2012 pop) / yr.2012 pop
Age 85+	22,715	73,483	3.23	223%
Age 75-84	47,111	117,668	2.50	150%
Age 65-74	84,550	188,189	2.23	123%
Age 50-64	216,827	278,585	1.28	28%

Scale



Reach 10, 50, or 100 people in approximately the same amount of time as an appointment





Attained-Age vs. Issue-Age Medigap Policies: BCBS Plan F

Develop a great way to convey information.

MISSOULA aging SERVICES

Promotion



Time-specific events create more interest than on-going services.

Find people you don't reach with calls, walk-ins, and appointments.



Financial Sustainability

Admission into an event, especially if participants get materials, is a value proposition people can easily understand and are willing to pay.

Other financial opportunities: grants, payment from employers

How to Conduct Education Events

Identify your agency's objectives:

- Scale up
- Improve quality of services
- Promote services
- Reach diverse populations
- Improve financial sustainability

You may face trade-offs, so prioritize.

Identify Community Needs

- **Internal Sources:**
- Strategic plan
- Database
- Staff input

External Sources:

- Focus groups/advisory council
- Media
- Community surveys:
 - BRFSS
 - Community Health
 Assessment



Identify existing education programs

- Assisted living facilities
- Colleges
- Congregate Meals/Senior Centers
- Employers
- Health department
- Home care providers
- Hospitals
- Independent Living Centers
- Libraries
- School District
- Support Groups



Find resources

Powerful Tools for Caregivers



Taking small steps for lifelong rewards







Find experts and presenters





Learn about adult education

coursera	Catalog	health e	education	Q	For Enterprise	
Course Languages English Spanish French		299 2 2	You searched for health education. 303 matches Active filters: English × Courses and Specializations			
Subt	More	303 29 21		Instructional Methods in Health Professions Education University of Michigan		
Si Si	nglish panish hinese implified)			Health Literacy and Communication for Health Professionals University of Nebraska		
All To	opics usiness ocial			Training and Learning Programs for Volunteer Community Health Workers Johns Hopkins University		

Bloom's Taxonomy

Evidence-based classes: Stepping On, Powerful Tools for Caregivers

Medicare Workshop,

Social Security Q&A



Flickr user: nist6dh

Interactive, Innovative Events



- Not all "classes"
- Not all PowerPoint
- Don't use too many bullet points
- Really.

Adding Interactivity



- Computer lab
- Live polling
- Breakout sessions
- Q&A style
- Homework
- Humor

Use a variety of venues

Every venue is comfortable for some people, but not others.

- Universities
- Schools
- Churches
- Community Centers

Get credit with funders



• FFP

- PAM
- SMP
- MLTSS?
- Others?

Have participants sign up, even if your event is free. Use #eventtech

Eventbrite

facebook

cvent metup

To Charge or Not to Charge?That is the question.

You may not be able to charge:

- What do funding sources allow?
- What do your volunteers want?
- What does your space allow?

Charging admission

- Anecdotally, people who pay are more likely to show up
- You must provide greater value than 1-on-1 appointments
- You can still give away a lot of tickets
 - Door prizes
 - Drawings
 - Sweepstakes
 - 2-for-1



Free or reduced-cost entry

- To pursue your agency's mission
- Scholarships, sliding fee scale, or suggested donation can help people with lower incomes.



Scholarships

Don't let your effort exceed the value of the scholarship:

- Minimize paperwork
- Get value from scholarship recipients:
 - In-kind, volunteering at event
 - Testimonial, photo, video



Suggested donation

Suggested donation can mean fewer donations, but more money donated overall.

"The Case for Free Admission" by Casey N. Cep http://www.newyorker.com/business/currency/thecase-for-free-admission



Evaluate events:

- Use Google Forms, SurveyMonkey, SurveyGizmo, even an Excel spreadsheet.
- Ask participants:
 - What they liked
 - What they learned (quiz)
 - What they will do



Make a video or audio recording of your event to use on your website, or for quality improvement.



Don't be afraid of a few empty seats



Image: Wikimedia Commons



The future of education programs

- Online classes
- Videos
- Apps
- Games?



Have fun!



Keep in touch

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