

LeadingAge® Connecticut 2021 Annual Highlights

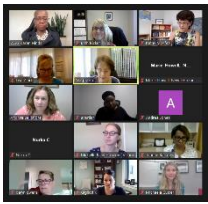
If we have learned anything this year, it is that we are stronger together and that with a united voice, we can accomplish much. *Lisa Connolly, Chair of LeadingAge Connecticut*

Fighting COVID-19



In March, we recognized the resilience of our membership after they emerged from the first year of the pandemic and declared that we were all *#oneyearstronger!* To articulate this message, we produced a video montage of uplifting photos displaying the courage, support, and resilience of our members and those they serve. We also worked in partnership with the state to promote vaccination and continued compliance with infection prevention and control protocols.

Membership Support



Throughout this past year, LeadingAge Connecticut provided support, guidance and education to our members by hosting regular and numerous webinars, calls, virtual roundtables, meetings, and programs. Highlights included our annual *Educational Conference and EXPO*, the *DPH Regulatory Nursing Home Program*, and our weekly member Zoom calls aimed at guiding and supporting our members.

Advocacy



Advocacy on the state level remained a priority for us during this last year and the COVID-19 pandemic added urgency and intensity to these efforts. We continued to represent the interests of all our members and those they serve; both in the halls of the State Capitol and in the offices of the state agencies – keeping our focus on raising the profile of aging services, defending our members' missions, and positively influencing the future of aging services and senior housing in this state. Our proactive and aggressive actions allowed us to navigate the 2021 legislative session with swift responses and accurate information. At the same time, our members grassroots efforts made all the difference and together we were able to achieve many favorable outcomes, including additional Medicaid funding across the continuum.

Gathering Together



On October 14, members gathered at Lyman Orchards in Middlefield to celebrate our 61st Annual Meeting. The beautiful fall day provided a welcoming venue to network together in person as we held our annual meeting, presented our annual awards and elected a new slate of leadership. Lisa Connolly, Vice President of Operations at Hartford Healthcare Senior Services, was sworn in as LeadingAge Connecticut's new Board Chair.

Leadership Development



Maintaining leadership development as a priority, LeadingAge Connecticut proudly celebrated the graduation of the ninth class of our statewide *Leadership Academy* in 2021 and we now look forward to welcoming the next class of aspiring leaders in 2022. We also hosted a virtual *Nursing Leadership Symposium* in December and, thanks to a generous grant from Aging in America, Inc., held a two-day virtual *Women in Leadership* program presented by Karen Hines from Workplace Success Group LLC.

Gratitude and Recognition



LeadingAge Connecticut recognized the following distinguished individuals during our annual awards ceremony held at our annual meeting.

Humanitarian: Ronald Schwartz, MD, Senior Director of Continuum Health Services, Masonicare

Distinguished Service: David Lawlor, President & CEO, United Methodist Homes

Chair's Award: Barbara Cass, RN, Branch Chief, Healthcare Quality and Safety Branch of DPH

Media Award: Keith Phaneuf and Jenna Carlesso, CTMirror

Spirit of Mission: Linda Midwinter, RN, SALSA, Middlewoods of Farmington

Leading Forward Award: Presented to the Membership Finally, we express our gratitude to our 2021 Diamond, Platinum, and Gold Partners