

Collaborative System to Reduce Older Adult Isolation in Lackawanna County

“Chronic isolation and loneliness are worse for health than smoking or obesity, especially in people over 50—and when older adults withdraw from their communities, taking with them their knowledge, perspective and talents, we are all diminished.” -AARP

Role Descriptions

Referral Sources

May make referral based on a Tier 1 pre screening tool, such as UCLA Loneliness Scale

Navigators

1. Administer Tier 2 screening at intake and six month intervals (U-SIRS – Upstream Social Isolation Risk Screener)
2. Connect to services/assist with barriers
3. Regular follow-up and evaluation

Existing Services and Programs

Provide or deliver service, program, and/or resource to senior (Ex. transportation assistance)

Public Awareness Campaign

Community campaign to decrease stigma, highlight health impacts of isolation, and increase participation in screening and navigation

Friendly Peer Volunteers

Accompany older adult to initial programming to ease their transition and assist in helping them make connections

