Objectives

- Understand Iowa’s changing population landscape
- Recognize aging network services
- Identify potential jobs in aging policy and advocacy
- Determine where to search for jobs
- How to establish your own brand

Iowa’s Aging Population

Profile of Older Iowans

What do Iowans Want?

93% of Iowans 50+ say it is extremely or very important to be able to stay in their own homes as they age.
By the Numbers

637,470
Estimated number of people age 60 and over

336,139
Iowans with disabilities

167,621
Iowans with disabilities age 18-64

139,313
Iowans with disabilities age 65+

Mandates of the Older Americans Act

• Develop and administer the state plan
• Plan, develop, establish policy, administer, coordinate, prioritize and evaluate all state activities related to the Older Americans Act
• Serve as an effective and visible advocate
• Divide the State into distinct planning and service areas

Iowa’s Aging Network

• Iowa Department on Aging is also known as “The State Unit on Aging.”
• The Department along with Area Agencies on Aging and their contractors are known collectively as “Iowa’s Aging Network.”
• The Network operates under The Older Americans Act which authorizes a wide array of service programs.

Target Populations Served

Populations to be given priority for services:
• Low-income older individuals
• Low-income minority individuals
• Older individuals with limited English proficiency
• Older individuals residing in rural areas

27% of all clients served during SFY 2011 were below federal poverty income level

Our Mission?

We are developing a comprehensive, coordinated and cost-effective system of long-term living and community support services that help individuals maintain health and independence in their homes and communities.

Aging Network Reorganization

On July 1, 2013: 13 Area Agencies on Aging, 16 Planning and Service Areas become 6 Area Agencies on Aging, with 6 planning and service areas.
Services & Potential Careers

- Advocacy
  - Education
  - Information
- Nutrition Programs
- State Long Term Care Ombudsman
  - Elder Abuse Prevention/Awareness
  - Legal Services
- Case Management
- Family Caregiver
- Older Worker training/employment
- Aging and Disability Resource Center

Policy & Advocacy Careers

- National Policy
  - Congress
  - Administration for Community Living (ACL)
    - Administration on Aging
    - Administration of Intellectual & Developmental Disability
    - Regional Offices
  - Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)
  - Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS)
    - Regional offices
  - https://www.usajobs.gov

- State Policy
  - Become a legislator
  - Executive Branches of State Government
    - Iowa Department on Aging
    - Iowa Department of Human Services
    - Iowa Medicaid Enterprise
    - Iowa Department of Public Health
    - Iowa Department of Education
    - Iowa Department for the Blind
    - Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation
  - www.das.iowa.gov

Policy & Advocacy Careers

- National Advocacy (think Wash D.C.)
  - National Council for Independent Living
  - National Disability Rights Network
  - National State Units on Aging & Disability
  - National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
    - AARP
      - Example of national organization with services and representation to states
    - Easter Seals
      - Example of national organization that has local affiliates

- Check websites!!!

Policy & Advocacy Careers

- State Advocacy
  - Iowa Association of Area Agencies on Aging
  - Disability Rights Iowa
  - Statewide Independent Living Council
  - Iowa Developmental Disability Council
  - Associations IRS 501 (c) 4
  - Non-profit Organizations IRS 501 (c) 3

- Check websites!!!

Job Search Strategies

- Common
  - Newspaper
  - Online job boards/websites
    - Monster.com
    - Indeed.com
- More Common Than You Realize
  - Shake Hands
    - Volunteer
    - Do presentations
    - Attend conferences/webinars and learn of trends
  - Skills + Education + Hand Shakes = Jobs
  - Treat unemployment as if it IS your job
Build Your Brand

Get comfortable with social media but not too comfortable!!!

LinkedIn: http://www.linkedin.com
Twitter: https://twitter.com
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com
Wikipedia???
What does Google say about you???
Your own website or blog???

My (un)Common Path?

B.A. in Psych
- Retail
- Orchard Place
- Easter Seals
- State of Iowa
- DHS
- Self-Employed
- Family Counseling

Masters of Public Administration
- NGO (healthcare)
- Easter Seals
- Hospital
- Grants Admin
- Research Admin

M.A. in Bioethics & Health Policy
- Adjunct Instructor
- Dept of Aging

Ph.D in Human Development & Family Studies
- ????

Conclusion

- Employment opportunities exist in the aging and disability networks
- Policy and advocacy positions are often times at the national and state level
  - Local opportunities exist too
  - Plus helps with experience
- Build your brand through social media and experience
- Get to know people!!!
- Don’t be afraid of the uncommon path

Thank You

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