Start-Up Process

• In 2008, educational presentations were made about the Lifespan Respite Care Act to the NYS Family Caregiver Council, the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) sponsored “Aging Concerns United” Conference, and in Syracuse to the New York State Rural Health Association board meeting. At these meetings, 37 attendees signed up for more information and were sent membership information.

• In June 2008, preparations began in earnest to launch a task force. The Statewide Caregivers Consortium of New York (SCCNY), headed by Renee Benson (who had been the NY contact for the National Respite Coalition for several years), took steps to establish a separate unit of the SCCNY, which was called the NY Lifespan Respite Task Force. On August 5th, Task Force member Beth Finkel, AARP New York, co-presented at a press conference with Senator Hillary Clinton about the Task Force work to date on the Lifespan Respite Initiative.

• Also in January of 2008, the consortium agreed to establish a Statewide Lifespan Task Force as an additional primary function of the organization. By the spring, the Statewide Lifespan Respite Task Force had a supporting membership of 23 agencies representing organizations from every disability service area and caring for clients of all ages. The consortium held a Statewide Respite Summit in May of 2009.

• The objectives of the Task Force were to assist:
  • New York State in becoming eligible for and applying for grants under the Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2006
  • The New York State agency that was designated to apply for such grants in developing its lifespan-respite program

Structure

• One year after its inception, the SCCNY members realized that the rate of growth of the task force and the consortium was beginning to exceed the capacity of its members and that a separate agency with its own staff was needed. The NYS Office for the Aging brought the Consortium together with the NYS Coalition for the Aging (NYSCA) to discuss a collaboration to create a Statewide Caregiving and Respite Coalition.

• The membership of both SCCNY and NYSCA voted to consolidate the SCCNY program and its Statewide Lifespan Task Force with the NYSCA organization. This was done with the provision that NYSCA would adopt the full mission and bylaws of SCCNY and that it would offer positions on its board to SCCNY members. The Consortium’s name was changed to include the word “Respite” to properly include that function, resulting in the nomenclature “Statewide Caregiving & Respite Coalition of NY (SCRCNY).”

• With the new grant funding structure, the coalition was reorganized under Lifespan of Greater Rochester and named New York State Caregiving and Respite Coalition (NYSCRC).

Funding

• NYS Office for the Aging
• Finger Lakes Geriatric Education Center

Staff

• NYSCRC is staffed by personnel from the New York State Office of the Aging (NYSOFA) and Lifespan of Greater Rochester.

• Areas around the State have also received supplemental funding for respite projects. In Rochester, NY, Lifespan of Greater Rochester was awarded a grant to provide respite to people with early stage dementia.
Membership
• NYSCRC currently has over 700 members.

Meetings and Communication
• Monthly e-news and advocacy alerts
• Annual State Conference geared toward professionals
• Caregiver Listening Tour

Major Activities
• Annual Conference – NYSCRC sponsors an annual conference:
  • In 2016, the conference had 128 participants and focused on assisting organizations and faith communities to develop and sustain volunteer respite programs in their communities.
  • The 2017 Conference is titled “Understanding and Effectively Engaging Caregivers.” A pre-conference session will feature a “Caregiver Simulation” event.
• Monthly Newsletters – Every month, the NYSCRC electronically sends a newsletter to almost 700+ members. Periodically, we highlight the work of local coalitions throughout the State. Newsletters are available on our website at www.nyscrc.org.
  • Mini Grant Awards – In 2016, NYSCRC awarded nine $5,000 mini grants to organizations for the purpose of developing or expanding volunteer respite programs.
  • Education and Training – NYSCRC is dedicated to supporting respite education and training of respite providers by providing REST (Respite Education and Support Tools) throughout NYS.
  • Caregiver Simulation Initiative – In 2017, NYSCRC initiated a “caregiver simulation” event to expose the wider community to the challenges of caregiving.
  • Caregiver Listening Sessions – In the summer of 2013, NYSCRC participated in caregiver listening sessions throughout the State in conjunction with AARP – NY and the Council of Senior Centers and Services of NYC. As a result of the listening tour, a joint report was created – Caregivers in Crisis: Why NYS Must Act. The report, the culmination of 12 listening sessions around the state with more than 900 caregivers and service providers, highlights the needs and makes specific policy recommendations.

Documents/Resources Available
• Monthly Newsletter
• Multiple resources available at nyscrc.org
• REST Information

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