Pioneering a New Culture of Aging Conference
August 12-15, 2018
CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Pioneer Network’s Annual Pioneering a New Culture of Aging conference, will be held on August 12-15, 2018 in Denver, Colorado.

The goal of this conference is to bring together individuals from across the United States and other countries who care deeply about changing the culture of aging, creating opportunities for communication, networking and learning with and from each other as they share innovative thought and best practices.

We strive to make this event meaningful to people who support person-directed living and culture change for the benefit of elders wherever they may live. We aim to support those who are just starting on the culture change journey to build a sense of home and community for and with elders – as well as those who have been actively engaged in this mission for some time.

We believe that to have a meaningful experience and fully explore a new culture of aging we must hear the voice of elders receiving long-term care who are living in their own homes, senior housing, retirement communities, assisted living or nursing homes.

Understanding who we are and how you can contribute

I. Understanding Culture Change

“Culture Change” is the common name given to the national movement for the transformation of older adult services, based on person-directed values and practices where the voices of elders and those working most closely with them are solicited, respected and honored. Core person-directed values are relationship, choice, dignity, respect, self-determination and purposeful living.

Pioneer Network envisions a culture of aging that is Life-Affirming, Satisfying and Meaningful and is based on the following values and principles:

- Know each person
- Each person can and does make a difference
- Relationship is the fundamental building block of a transformed culture
- Respond to spirit, as well as mind and body
- Risk taking is a normal part of life
- Put person before task
- All elders are entitled to self-determination wherever they live
- Community is the antidote to institutionalization
- Do unto others as you would have them do unto you
- Promote the growth and development of all
- Shape and use the potential of the environment in all its aspects: physical, organizational, psycho/social/spiritual
- Practice self-examination, searching for new creativity and opportunities for doing better
- Recognize that culture change and transformation are not destinations but a journey, always a work in progress
II. Conference Objectives
1. To showcase innovations in culture change and person-directed care practices specific to aging and across diverse settings.
2. To support networking and sharing among constituents from all settings within the long-term care continuum.
3. To continue to build the momentum and create a new culture of aging in the US and beyond.
4. To build on the role of community in defining and supporting the culture of aging we aspire to create.
5. To highlight the use of technology in advancing a new culture of aging.
6. To provide sessions that give participants “how to”, practical information related to development of core values across the settings of care, implementation of person-centered practices, processes for change management and for sustaining the change.

III. Desired Elements in the Conference Program
In designing the conference program, the planning committee is looking for sessions that will consist of the following:

1. Reflect elements of community, both within the care setting and within the community at large, and how this impacts the culture of aging.
2. Include practical tools for implementation and evaluation of person-directed practices, providing attendees with what they need to implement what they learn in their setting. While the following list is not all inclusive, feedback from past conference attendees has indicated that they are looking for tools to support practice in the following areas: liberalized diets; PCC Med Pass; self-scheduling; sleep hygiene; bathing/ADL care; dining; dementia care; care of individuals with mental illness; addressing the needs of the LGBTQ population; workforce stabilization; team building and leadership development.
3. Reflect the knowledge and experiences of those who work closest to the elders (i.e. direct care workers) and who are engaged in living these practices every day.
4. Are inclusive, supporting diversity and representing all voices who can and do support the planning and delivery of services. The conference program will include the voice of the elders and engage people of all ages in sharing, exploring and celebrating the experiences of aging across diverse contexts and settings.
5. Are interactive and experiential, providing a safe and engaging space where participants actively engage with ideas and have opportunities for critical reflection and dialogue with each other. While recognizing that there are topics and timeframes of sessions that are best shared using traditional panel presentations followed by facilitated discussion, guides are encouraged to consider presentations that offer vibrant, creative and non-traditional approaches to share information (e.g., use of technology, performing arts, fine arts, media, narratives, storytelling, poetry, photography, small art installations, etc.),
6. Support networking by creating opportunities for strong connections to be made between lived experiences, professional practices, education and research as a means of advancing a strong network of individuals and organizations interested in changing the culture of aging. The conference program will promote the importance of teamwork, collaboration and a shared sense of purpose.

IV. Submission Review Criteria
Submissions will be reviewed in consideration of their:

1. alignment to Pioneer Network values and principles and the conference goals, objectives and program elements;
2. quality, clarity and thoughtfulness (e.g. coherence, logical flow, grammar/spelling, etc.);
3. applicability to practice (e.g., tools, strategies, implementation guides, etc.), and/or inspiring, forward-thinking ideas; and
4. active engagement of diverse perspectives (preference will be given to sessions that actively engage older adults/residents, students and/or individuals engaged in direct care).
5. Relevance and practical application for attendees of the session “take-away”.

V. Additional information

1. All Guides are expected to provide a 1 page session resource. This resource is meant to be a take away related to your presentation topic, containing information that has practical application for the attendee to bring back and pass along to their team. Examples of session resources include: tip sheet, fact sheet, take home exercise, list of how to’s, a highlight from your session, learning circle questions related to your topic, list of resources for further study (e.g. websites, books, webinars).

2. The selection committee invites a wide range of engaging session formats including: interactive workshops, panel discussions, and creative expressions/performances.

3. Applicants will be asked to select the topic area(s) most aligned with their session (Building Community, Clinical Practice, Technology/Innovation, Diversity, Resident Voice, Intergenerational programming, Non-Traditional Settings, Life-enrichment/Wellness, Quality, Research)

4. Guides who have their submissions accepted are expected to be available to present on August 13, 2018, August 14, 2018 and/or August 15, 2018 in Denver, Colorado.

5. All Guides must register and pay applicable conference registration fees. A discounted rate is provided to Guides, older adults and students and some individuals may qualify for scholarships. More details will be shared with notification of acceptance.

6. Descriptions of sessions accepted as part of the conference program will be posted online, along with guide names, affiliations and photos.

7. Presentation slides, handouts and session resource must be submitted prior to the conference and will be shared on the Pioneer Network App (Pioneers Connect 2018) prior to, during and following the conference.

8. If you wish to have hard copies of your handouts available for attendees, Guide will be responsible for providing these for distribution/use during your session.

9. Guides are not to include in their sessions any commercial endorsements or selling of specific products or services. (Opportunities to participate as a Vendor/Sponsor are available. If interested, please send inquiry to info@pioneernetwork.net)

10. By submitting a proposal, all Guides acknowledge that if their submission is accepted, they may be photographed and/or recorded during their session. If this is a problem, please make note of this in the “Additional Requests or Special Needs” section of the submission form.

**RFP SUBMISSIONS**

Deadline for submissions is Friday December 1, 2017
Guides will be informed of decision by Monday, January 15, 2017
Guides must confirm attendance by Friday, January 26, 2017
Questions can be sent to info@pioneernetwork.net

Questions?
Content related: Joan Devine, Director of Education, Pioneer Network at joan.devine@pioneernetwork.net
Technical questions related to the site: Misty Frank at misty@optplanning.com