

Grantee Partner Meeting – ALPs providers April 25, 2023

Guests: Elizabeth Davis (Bright Side), Harold, Cristine, Stacy, Amy Epstein (JCHC)

FFA: Jim, Tyler, Beth, Lisa, Conrad, Emily, Susan

The Portable Assisted Living Program started in the early 2000s when organizations providing low income senior housing in New Jersey recognized that many residents wanted to remain in their own homes but needed some modest support services. They could not afford to move to assisted living homes. The Taub Foundation provided funding for Capital Impact Partners to work with 11 interested providers on forming a Coalition, building a model, and advocating for state policy. There continue to be numerous housing providers who insist that they only rent housing and do not provide support services.

The New Jersey Assisted Living Program is a state certified program to provide a full set of assisted living services to support senior housing residents with their activities of daily living (personal care, med management, care coordination, mobile therapies, programs). The program provides nurses, social workers and health aides on site, working with property managers. The model shifts from a healthcare model to hospitality and prevention.

New Jersey licenses the ALPs as assisted living communities but it is not an exact fit, so the state examiners are often unsure how to proceed. Studies indicate that these residents would have to move to skilled nursing facilities, or home health (with daily 4 hour minimums) which are much more costly, so the State and insurance companies are interested. The model aims to be self-supporting through Medicaid and Medicare but needs a critical number of participants, so there is a building period to be supported by grants. They have succeeded in getting the Medicaid day rate raised from \$67 to \$89 this year. In addition to Taub, the Grotta Foundation, Healthcare Foundation of NJ, and Sklar Foundation have all provided support. Karen Zarillo at the Rutgers Graduate School of Social Work was embarking on a study of the model, but it was derailed by the pandemic.

There are many factors which recommend this model, which can itself become not only a state-wide model, but find replication in other states. The guests were thanked for this education session.