The Work of NISC

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC) supports a national network of over 3,000 senior center professionals dedicated to helping older adults remain active, engaged, and independent in their communities. NISC is setting the standard for the future of senior centers by promoting cutting-edge research, promising practices, professional development, and advocacy. NISC also offers the nation’s only National Senior Center Accreditation Program. Accreditation provides official recognition that a senior center meets nine national standards of senior center operations. The goals of NISC include:

- Strengthening senior centers to improve the lives of older adults
- Engaging NISC members in NCOA’s social impact goals of enhancing economic security, improving health, and advocating for older adults, especially those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged

Through conference calls, webinars, and the NCOA Crossroads online community, senior center professionals throughout the country have an opportunity to share their experiences and take action on policy and advocacy issues and community-based initiatives; participate in NISC Teams and other opportunities for engagement; and contribute their best practice knowledge to NCOA/NISC programs and initiatives.

The NISC Executive Committee coordinates the work of the seven virtual teams. It is comprised of the Chair, Chair-Elect, and Chairs of each team. The NISC Program Manager is an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee. During monthly conference calls and an annual in-person meeting, teams provide progress reports, discuss integration of outcomes, and make decisions regarding leadership, strategy, and activities.

**July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020**

**NISC Executive Committee**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NISC Chair</th>
<th>Elizabeth Bernat, South Carolina</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NISC Chair-Elect</td>
<td>Tracey Colagrossi, Illinois</td>
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<tr>
<td>NISC Past-Chair</td>
<td>Lynn Fields Harris, Pennsylvania</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Team Chairs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Practices</td>
<td>Jill Hall, Maryland (future 100 Million Healthier Lives Chair)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Security</td>
<td>Laura Cisneros, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving Health</td>
<td>Beverly Ferry, Indiana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accreditation Board</td>
<td>Open position</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Team</td>
<td>Christine Beatty, Wisconsin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Policy Team</td>
<td>Tracey Colagrossi, Illinois</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>NCOA Staff</strong></td>
<td>Pat Branson, Alaska</td>
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<td>NISC Program Manager</td>
<td>Maureen O’Leary</td>
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<td>NCOA Constituent Engagement Coordinator</td>
<td>Scott Harlow</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCOA Public Policy</td>
<td>Marci Phillips</td>
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</tbody>
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251 18th Street South | Arlington, VA 22202 | 571-527-3900 | www.ncoa.org
Join Us as We Move Forward!

Get Involved with the NISC Teams

1. Register to attend the next meeting and learn more.

Diversity goal for all teams
To enrich NISC teams and leadership by including individuals who differ from themselves in terms of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, social economic status, religious affiliation, gender. All teams work to share information with senior centers to support diversity.

Best Practices Team
- Connects center professionals nationally to promote and disseminate new ideas and research.
- **Meeting:** Wednesday, September 4 at noon, ET  **Register:** [https://cc.readytalk.com/r/kgyfv4ksyi9u&eom](https://cc.readytalk.com/r/kgyfv4ksyi9u&eom)
- **Chair:** Jill Hall, jphall@baltimorecountymd.gov

Economic Security Team
- Connects senior centers with information about economic security and benefits programs, tools to implement programs, and professionals with expertise.
- **Meeting:** Thursday, September 19, 4 p.m. ET  **Register:** [https://cc.readytalk.com/r/7evebt4wb67p&eom](https://cc.readytalk.com/r/7evebt4wb67p&eom)
- **Co-Chairs:** Laura Cisneros, LCisneros@wellmed.net & Beverly Ferry, BeverlyF@livingwellinwabashcounty.org

Improving Health Team
- Provides easy access to information on implementation of evidence-based programs.
- **Meeting:** Thursday, Sept. 5th at 2 p.m. ET  **Register:** [https://cc.readytalk.com/r/7evebt4wb67p&eom](https://cc.readytalk.com/r/7evebt4wb67p&eom)
- **Position open contact NISC Chair:** Elizabeth Bernat, elizabeth.bernat@rsfh.com

100 Million Healthier Lives Sub-Committee
- **Meeting:** Thursday, September 19 at 2 p.m. ET  **Register:** [https://cc.readytalk.com/r/l0rbihsdu8xh&eom](https://cc.readytalk.com/r/l0rbihsdu8xh&eom)
- **Chair:** Jill Hall, jphall@baltimorecountymd.gov

Public Policy Team
- Educates and engages all senior centers and provides information on long-term advocacy issues.
- **Meeting:** Thursday, September 3 at 3 p.m. ET  **Register:** [https://cc.readytalk.com/r/c3wm2d9dhkiz&eom](https://cc.readytalk.com/r/c3wm2d9dhkiz&eom)
- **Chair:** Patricia Branson, scokinc@ak.net

Accreditation Board
- Builds capacity and advances the quality of senior centers nationwide through National Senior Center Standards and Accreditation.
- **Meetings are not open** but you may contact Maureen O’Leary or Christine to find out how to become a NISC Peer reviewer.  **Chair:** Christine Beatty, chris_fred@att.net

Membership Team
- Supports building greater value for NISC members and engaging state networks.
- **Meeting:** Thursday, Sept. 24 at 1 p.m. ET  **Register:** [https://cc.readytalk.com/r/sgyamazpnvf3&eom](https://cc.readytalk.com/r/sgyamazpnvf3&eom)
- **Chair:** Tracey Colagrossi, TColagrossi@hanover-township.org

Questions? Contact NISC Chair Elizabeth Bernat elizabeth.bernat@rsfh.com  
For more information about NISC go to [www.ncoa.org/nisc](http://www.ncoa.org/nisc).