

CMDA Members,

Below is an incredibly useful and meaningful opportunity for our residents in LTC. However, the timing important and communication needs to finalize in LTC and AL communities by **September 1st**. The program and calls will begin Mid-September. The project will engage with approximately 300 residents. Please see below. I encourage facilities to take advantage of this opportunity as there are residents who would greatly benefit from type of engagement.

COAST-IT

CONNECTING OLDER ADULTS TO STUDENTS – THROUGH INTERCOLLABORATION TELECARE

Brief Explanation of the Project:

Older adults have been particularly impacted by social isolation during COVID-19. At the same time, health professional students in their first 1-2 years of training have lost opportunities to have interactions with patients. Dr. Sarah Tietz, Geriatrician is spearheading a social isolation outreach project where students (from the CU Anschutz pharmacy school, college of nursing (NP), PA Program, and medical school) will be paired with a patient who they will have weekly to every other week phone calls with throughout this semester to provide support to the patient, and to help students improve their communication skills. The students will be available to start making calls mid-September.

Good candidates for the project:

- Patients who have had significant mental or physical health effects from social isolation that has occurred due to COVID-19 or other recent social changes.
- Patients who would enjoy interacting with a student on a regular basis and volunteer to be a part of the project. Patients should know they are going to be contacted and be willing/wanting to participate. Please do not refer until you have discussed this with the patient themselves.
- Patients without cognitive impairment who could participate in regular (up to weekly) phone calls with a student over the next 3-4 months.
- Patient who would enjoy extended conversations with a student.
- Patients who are able to operate a telephone independently (no hearing impairment that would prohibit their ability to use the phone)

*All facilities need to be confirmed by September 1, 2020 so we can begin assignments between students and residents.

For more information please contact:

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