

# ALLOW US TO INTRODUCE OURSELVES

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In the NCECE monthly newsletter, you can expect to find quotes from talented experts leading the way in researching the keys to a healthier, better world.

You'll find spotlights on our passionate staff. You'll always find excellent features on older adult-focused health observance months, advice on a variety of topics, and so much more.

But first: what is NCECE, and why is the work we're doing so important? We turn to NCECE Principal Investigator Dr. Christine Riedy, Chair and Delta Dental of Massachusetts Associate Professor of Oral Health Policy and Epidemiology at Harvard School of Dental Medicine, for answers.

"The National Center for Equitable Care for Elders, a HRSA-funded national cooperative award, was conceived because of our interest in ensuring that older adults have access to quality, coordinated healthcare and social support services to meet their changing needs," she said.

Her passion goes far beyond a mission statement. With sincerity, compassion, and an endless motor, she researches, coordinates with subject matter experts nationwide, and, along with the NCECE staff, provides training and technical assistance to health centers.

"Through our training and technical assistance activities, we can highlight some of the unique needs of older adult patients, including care coordination for complex chronic conditions (medical, dental, behavioral, and social determinants of health), substance use disorders, and end of life and palliative care issues," she explained.

Her excitement is inspiring and, as it turns out, her interest in working with older adults is rooted in fond memories from her youth.

"I have always been involved in older adult social support. As an elementary-aged child, I, along with my younger sister, would sing at my grandmother's YMWCA senior social group for their entertainment portion," she said with a smile.

Combining childhood inspiration with extensive research experience and accomplishments throughout her career, health care centers nationwide can benefit from her unwavering support and commitment toward quality care for older adults.

“With the accelerated graying of our U.S. population and fewer geriatric-trained providers in the health workforce, it becomes imperative to provide training to health centers, care providers, and staff on older adults’ health care needs through other venues,” she said.

Want to learn more about Dr. Christine Riedy and the rest of the NCECE team? [Visit the NCECE website!](#)