



Leadership Coalition on Aging

c/o Collier Senior Resources, 4755 Tamiami Trail North, Ste. 140, Naples, FL 34103

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[Leadership Coalition on Aging](#)

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EMPOWERMENT MESSAGE FOR SENIORS ON FLORIDA SENIOR DAY: SHORTCUTS WHEN SHOPPING FOR SENIOR LIVING

(Naples, FL) - The Leadership Coalition on Aging celebrates Florida Senior Day on March 27th, 2019, with 10 expert tips designed to 'empower' seniors and their families with the information they need, in order to make timely, informed decisions about their future. These tips are:

- 1. Plan Ahead.** Seven out of ten of us will need some type of care as we get older. Planning after something has happened is too late. Bruce Rosenblatt, senior housing advisor with Senior Housing Solutions offers, *“The timing to explore senior housing is not about waiting for a buyer’s market. It’s about the timing that is right for you.”*
- 2. Establish Residency.** If you’ve recently moved to Florida, you can take steps to ensure your former state has no claim on your assets by establishing Florida residency. Jo-Anne Herina Jeffreys, attorney at law, advises seniors to *“Sign a declaration of domicile validating residence as of a specific date and file it with the court.”*
- 3. Update Key Documents.** Legal documents from other states may not hold in Florida. Have an attorney review key documents and update as needed.
- 4. Appoint an Agent.** Be sure you have someone appointed to take care of things in the event you are unable to make healthcare decisions, as well as someone to manage financial needs.

5. **Check Veteran's Eligibility.** The Veterans Aid & Attendance Program provides a monthly financial stipend which can be a game-changer to your financial picture. Check out the recent changes in eligibility. *"If you don't need the benefit today, the best thing you can do is plan for tomorrow,"* advises VA accredited claims agent Ted Capuano of Care Funding Solutions.
6. **Check Your Long-Term Care Insurance Status.** About 10% of us have a long-term care policy. If you have a policy, review the terms and benefits. If you don't have a policy, see if you can still qualify.
7. **Go Shopping!** How do you know which senior community is right for you? Consider tapping the expertise of a senior housing advisor.
8. **Consider Housing & Service Costs.** Housing options include rental, buy-ins, and ownership—but you need to consider the levels of service that may be used to consider the full pricing costs.
9. **Take Care of the Caregiver.** Planning for future care needs is only part of the equation. Consider the financial needs of the partner who may become a caregiver too. *"For most people, their home is their largest asset. Explore ways to tap the equity to pay for the care you may need,"* offers Rick Gow, certified senior advisor with Lara, May & Associates.
10. **Share Your Plan.** Once you have your plans and key documents updated—share them with your family and/or the professionals on your team. By taking this step, those who may need to make important decisions for you will be able to do so.

The LCA has launched their 2019 Senior Empowerment Series, offering five educational sessions on a variety of subjects scheduled at locations throughout Collier County. The first lecture of the five-part series entitled, ***Shortcuts When Shopping for Senior Living***, featured experts in the fields of senior housing, elder law, veterans' benefits, and senior advisory services. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions of experts and visit informational booths of sponsor organizations arming seniors with knowledge on local resources. The program stressed the importance of seniors researching options related residential services and setting a game plan well before a crisis.

The Empowerment Series lectures are free and held throughout the year! Upcoming events include:

Caring for the Caregiver--Avoiding Caregiver Burnout
Thursday, May 16th, 2019, 1:00-3:00PM
South Regional Library, 8065 Lely Cultural Parkway, Naples

What to do with All Your Stuff!
Thursday, July 18th, 2019, 1:00-3:00PM
Naples Daily News Community Meeting Room, 1100 Immokalee Road, Naples

Senior Living Options in Southwest Florida
Wednesday, October 10th, 2019, 1:00-3:00PM
Vi at Bentley Village, 850 Retreat Drive, Naples

To register for a lecture, please call 239-776-7353. For more information on the Leadership Coalition on Aging, please visit LCAcollier.org.

ABOUT THE LEADERSHIP COALITION ON AGING

Sponsored by Collier Senior Resources (CSR), the Leadership Coalition on Aging was established in 2012 as a means for local health and human service providers to collaborate toward enriching the lives of Collier County seniors and those in a caregiving role. The coalition seeks to foster a community environment that promotes well-being through resource sharing, education, advocacy and community outreach. The coalition is comprised of over 50 organizations, including private sector, nonprofit and governmental agencies. The coalition meets monthly to share resources, advance advocacy agendas, educate members, and plan outreach initiatives. Signature events include: • Annual Conference on Aging for Professionals • LODESTAR Awards, recognizing leadership in the senior sector • Empowerment Series for Seniors.

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