

**Tha, Soe Han**

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**From:** Tha, Soe Han  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 25, 2023 12:00 PM  
**To:** Tha, Soe Han  
**Subject:** Updates from COASC

May 2023

## Coalition for Older Adults' Social Connectedness

The News



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Recent and Upcoming Events:

- [The U.S. Surgeon General's framework for social connectedness](#), more below
- [Gen Silent Documentary Screening](#), Openhouse, Family Caregiver Alliance, the Alzheimer's Association, and the Clowder Group, June 7 @ noon PT, more below

- [Webinar: Addressing the Complex Needs of Older Adults through Strong Community-Based Organization and Health Plan Partnerships](#), The Better Care Playbook, June 13 @ 11am PT, more below
  - [Understanding Grief and Loss](#), Institute on Aging, June 21 @ 2 pm PT, more below
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**Message from**

**Dr. Carla Perissinotto**

This month, we bring you the U.S. Surgeon General's advisory and three upcoming events of interest.

Next month, we will be sharing important news regarding the coalition as well as soliciting your feedback on the direction of the coalition and who else to include. Stay tuned!



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*Loneliness and isolation represent profound threats to our health and well-being. But we have the power to respond. By taking small steps every day to strengthen our relationships, and by supporting community efforts to rebuild social connection, we can rise to meet this moment together. We can build lives and communities that are healthier and happier. And we can ensure our country and the world are better poised than ever to take on the challenges that lay ahead.*

”

**~ Dr. Vivek H. Murthy, 19th and 21st Surgeon General of the United States**

Dr. Murthy's advisory calls attention to the critical role that social connection plays in individual, community and societal health, offering a framework for how we can all contribute to improving social connection. This framework identifies the three

vital components of social connection (structure, function and quality) and lists the six pillars to advance social connection. Access the complete advisory and additional resources [here](#).


**Office of the  
U.S. Surgeon General**

## The Six Pillars to Advance Social Connection

1

**Strengthen Social Infrastructure in Local Communities**

Design the built environment to promote social connection

Establish and scale community connection programs

Invest in local institutions that bring people together

2

**Enact Pro-Connection Public Policies**

Adopt a “Connection-in-All-Policies” approach

Advance policies that minimize harm from disconnection

Establish cross-departmental leadership at all levels of government

3

**Mobilize the Health Sector**

Train health care providers

Assess and support patients

Expand public health surveillance and interventions

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4

**Reform Digital Environments**

Require data transparency

Establish and implement safety standards

Support development of pro-connection technologies

5

**Deepen Our Knowledge**

Develop and coordinate a national research agenda

Accelerate research funding

Increase public awareness

6

**Build a Culture of Connection**

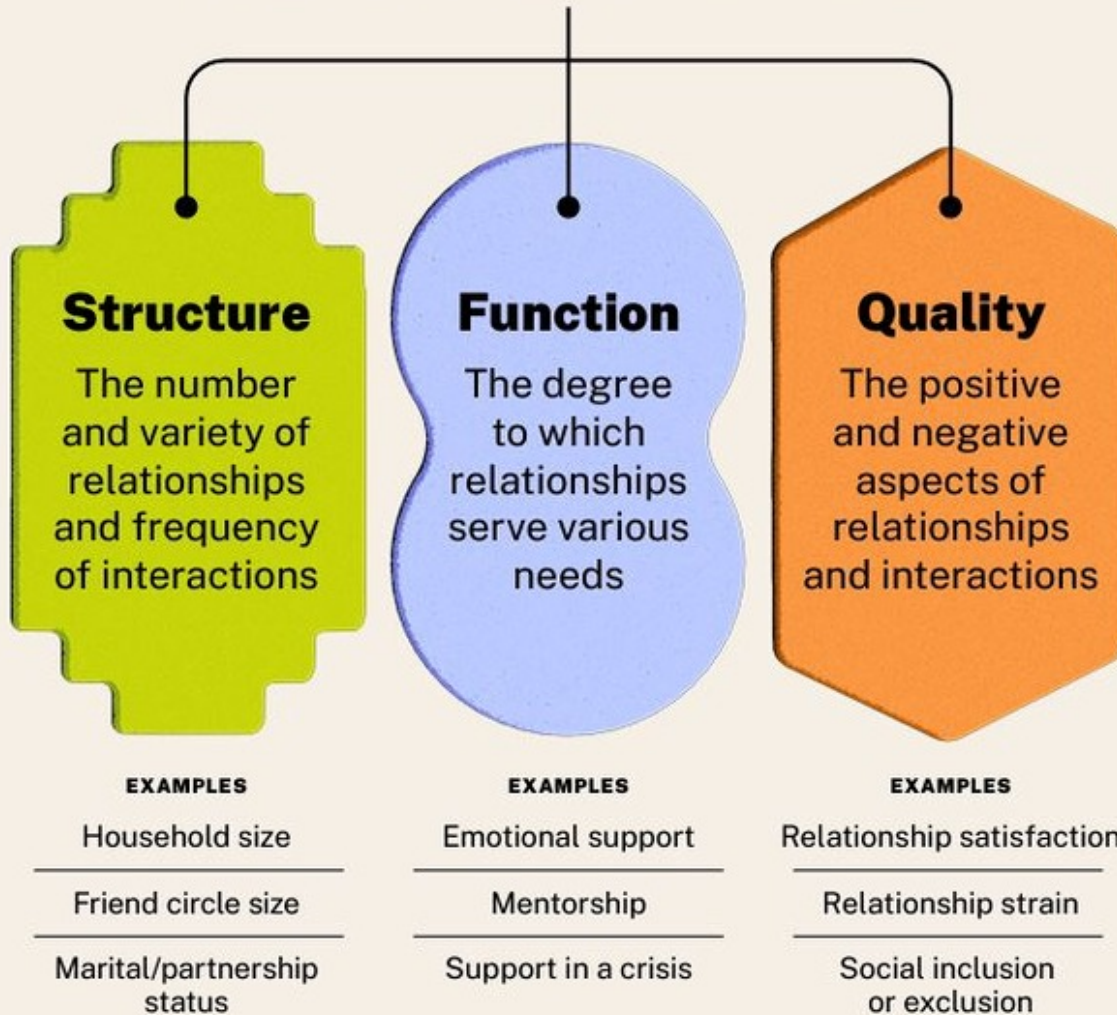
Cultivate values of kindness, respect, service, and commitment to one another

Model connection values in positions of leadership and influence

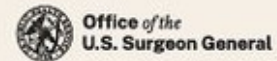
Expand conversation on social connection in schools, workplaces, and communities

# The Three Vital Components of Social Connection

The extent to which an individual is socially connected depends on multiple factors, including:



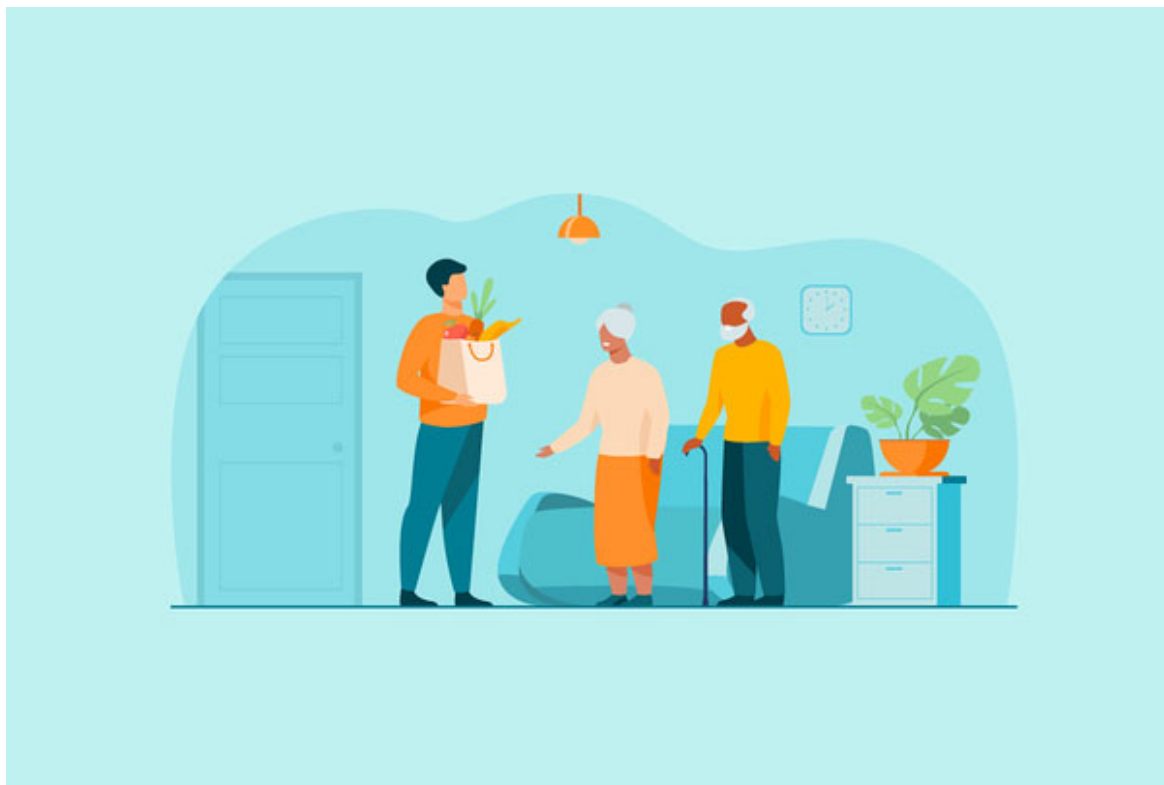
Source: Holt-Lunstad J. Why Social Relationships Are Important for Physical Health: A Systems Approach to Understanding and Modifying Risk and Protection. *Annu Rev Psychol.* 2018;69:437-458.



**Gen Silent Documentary Screening**, Openhouse, Family Caregiver Alliance, the Alzheimer's Association, and the Clowder Group, June 7 @ noon PT

This critically acclaimed documentary explores why LGBTQ older people are going back into the closet to survive an often hostile care system. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender older people who fought the first battles for equality now face so much fear of religious objection, bullying and abuse that many are hiding their identities. Join Openhouse, Family Caregiver Alliance, the Alzheimer's Association, and the Clowder Group during the first week of Pride Month for a free screening of this documentary to honor LGBTQ+ older adults and their stories.

Registration and more info [here](#).



**Webinar: Addressing the Complex Needs of Older Adults through Strong Community-Based Organization and Health Plan Partnerships**, The Better Care Playbook, June 13 @ 11am PT

Health care entities, community-based organizations (CBOs), and community care hubs like Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) are increasingly partnering to

deliver home- and community-based services and other evidence-based services for older adults, many of whom have chronic health conditions and disabilities. These partnerships can help address the health-related social needs of older adults, reduce health disparities, prevent unnecessary hospitalizations, and support older adults to remain in their homes as long as possible.

Despite the rise in these cross-sector partnerships, CBOs report difficulties in effectively entering into contracting relationships with the health care sector. This includes challenges in establishing clear scopes of service as well as obstacles impeding issues like billing, timely payment, and workflows.

This 60-minute Better Care Playbook webinar, made possible through support from the Seven Foundation Collaborative, will feature perspectives from program leaders and researchers on the value case for partnership, describe different partnership models, and highlight new resources to facilitate effective contracting to support adults of any age. The webinar will highlight one successful CBO-health plan partnership model to explore why they entered into a partnership, how they put their contract into practice, and outcomes of the partnership so far.

Presenters include **Larke Recchie**, Chief Executive Officer, Ohio Association of AAAs; **Marisa Scala-Foley**, Director, Aging and Disability Business Institute, USAging; Dr. **Shantanu Agrawal**, Chief Health Officer, Elevance Health; and **Susan Rawlings Molina**, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Ground Game Health. Ample opportunities will be available for participants to ask questions.

CBOs, health plans and other interested stakeholders are invited to join this 60-minute event. Registration and more info [here](#).

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## Understanding Grief and Loss, Institute on Aging, June 21 @ 2pm PT

Grief is the reaction to loss, and any kind of loss can trigger grief. People grieve for the loss of someone they love but also for the loss of independence, usefulness, cognitive functioning, and physical abilities. Grief is also a lifelong process: a journey rather than something that is cured. This course will teach people to recognize grief and how to respond appropriately to the grieving person. A final section on compassion fatigue, burnout, and secondary stress includes strategies for professional self-care.

### Learning Objectives:

- Define Grief
- Identify three physical changes that affect people as they age to normalize the process, and help people understand important aspects of working with a grieving person
- Identify three myths about grief
- List ways to manage compassion fatigue

Registration and more info [here](#).

Thanks to the [Joseph & Vera Long Foundation](#) for their support of the **Coalition for Older Adults' Social Connectedness**.

This newsletter is intended for individuals who want to stay informed on social isolation, loneliness, and social connectedness efforts in Northern CA. **Please share your feedback about our newsletter by replying to this email.**

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