

## **FY 2021-2022 – Respite Employer Engagement Annual Report**

### **1. What challenges (gaps and barriers) did you face during this FY and what actions did you take to address these challenges?**

- Initially, it was more challenging to connect with employers via Zoom or conference calls about the Respite Employer Engagement Initiative than in person. Similar to FY21, I was able to connect with more businesses this year either via conference calls or Zoom/WebEx meetings to complete Respite Employer Engagement presentations due more familiarity with meeting remotely. I am very pleased with the connections I have made with Respite Employer Engagement Initiative partners and Working Caregiver Survey participants during the 2021-2022 contract year. We exceeded our goals for recruiting employers sharing Respite Resources and the number of participants in Nebraska's Working Caregiver Survey. 38 new statewide employers are sharing Respite Resources with employees and 17 employers disseminated Nebraska's Working Caregiver Survey and data reports for individual employers have been completed.
- I had hoped to complete the 2022 Working Caregiver Survey Annual Data Report by July 15, 2022, but we have had one employer that disseminated the survey previously but recently sent reminders and we are now receiving more responses and that survey will remain open through July 20, 2022. The 2022 report will be completed ASAP. We are looking forward to the opportunity to present Nebraska's Working Caregiver Survey Data at the National Respite Conference in September.
- Employers are still hesitant to post business logos on the [respite.ne.gov](https://respite.ne.gov) website. We have had several additions this contract year, but this doesn't seem to be a perk that interests most employers. I will keep thanking employers for sharing Respite Resources and encourage them to post their business logo on our website as recognition for supporting working caregivers.

### **2. What are the lessons learned during this FY?**

- I continue to be reminded of the importance of being helpful, having a positive attitude, encouraging others and be a team player not only with new contacts but others who you have known for years. Supporting those around you leads to more successful relationships, partnerships and outcomes.
- COVID-19 challenges have continued in a variety of ways but we all have grown and learned new skills that may make us more productive and cost effective for the future. I.E. Zoom meetings and connecting remotely.
- Consistent follow-up and reminders are always recommended and needed. Most of the Working Caregiver Survey participants have needed to be reminded to

disseminate the Survey and consistent reminder emails have needed to be sent to encourage participation.

- I have continued to learn more skills in balancing a fulltime work schedule with caregiving and being an active volunteer. I sincerely appreciate the opportunities I have received in my professional roles.