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**Transforming Health Systems through Social Care and Health Equity**

**Summary:**

AAAs (Area Agencies on Aging) are pivotal community experts in addressing Social Drivers of Health (SDOH) and bridging care gaps to enhance overall wellbeing and quality of life. Recently, the healthcare industry has recognized the importance of screening for Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) and forming strategic partnerships to dismantle these barriers to care.

In this presentation, COAAA Director of Clinical Innovations, Melissa Gualtieri, will share her expertise, practical tips, and lessons learned in developing programs and interventions aimed at closing care gaps. Participants will gain insight into the crucial role AAAs play in promoting health equity and how to effectively communicate this to the healthcare industry.

**Learning Objectives:**

* Explore Social Drivers of Health: Understand the key factors influencing health outcomes and their impact on communities
* Define and Utilize Z-codes: Learn about Z-codes and their significance in documenting and addressing social determinants of health
* Differentiate SDOH and HRSN: Clarify the distinctions between Social Drivers of Health and Health-Related Social Needs
* Assess AAA Impact on SDOH Needs: Evaluate how AAAs address SDOH and contribute to improved health outcomes
* Identify Opportunities with Health Plans and Healthcare Systems: Discover collaborative opportunities to enhance care delivery and health equity through partnerships with health plans and healthcare systems