

2022 in Review & Goals for 2023

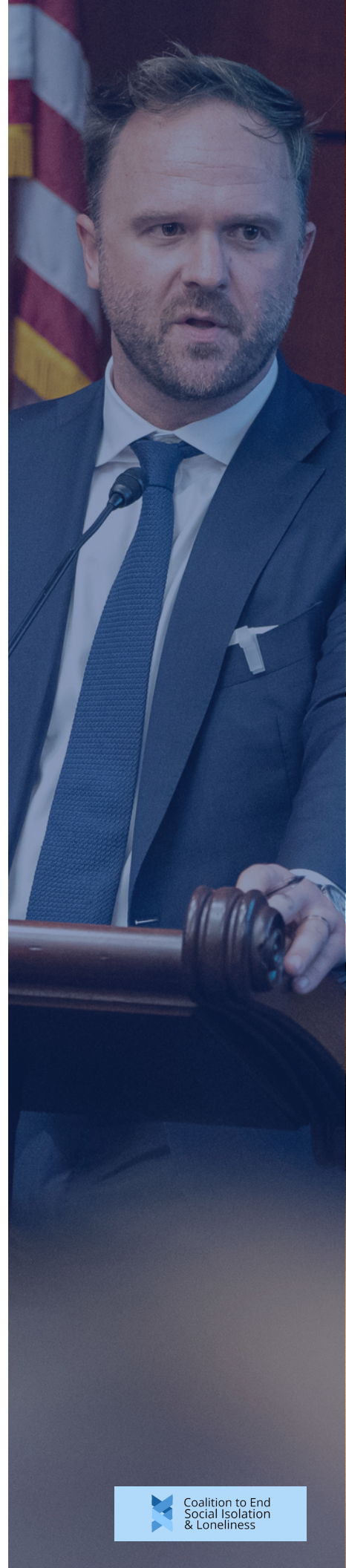
The Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness (CESIL) and the Foundation for Social Connection (F4SC) have been hard at work in 2022. Below are highlights of this year's successes - many of which would not have been possible without the impressive breadth and diversity of our members and partners - as well as our areas of focus for next year.

We are counting on your continued engagement to help us build on our impressive track record to create a healthier, more socially connected society, and end social isolation and loneliness.

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Policy & Advocacy

- ✓ **Policy Priorities.** We met and shared our **policy priorities** with bipartisan members of Congress including leaders in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. This included representatives who are members of the Energy and Commerce and the Education and Labor Committee, as well as senators who sit on the Finance Committee, Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Veterans Affairs Committee, Appropriations Committee, Special Committee on Aging, among others.
 - *We commit to developing a consensus-based, evidence-informed public policy agenda for 2023 led by the **Coalition's Policy Committee**. The Policy Committee has been judiciously iterating on what policy approaches and actions are needed to create and support a more socially connected community, society and nation.*
 - *We commit that the 2023 public policy agenda will reflect the policy recommendations that came out of the social framework developed in partnership with our **Scientific Advisory Council** of the Foundation for Social Connection and network of stakeholder leaders.*
 - *We commit to working with Congress to introduce groundbreaking bipartisan legislation on social isolation, loneliness and social connection in the 118th Congress. The legislation will include innovative, common sense solutions that are actionable, practical, and inclusive and are steeped in research.*
- ✓ **Public Awareness and Education.** We continue to raise public awareness and educate various stakeholders about the importance of social connection and reducing social isolation and loneliness. We participated in several webinars and podcasts to discuss our policy approaches to combating social isolation and loneliness.
- ✓ **Virtual Advocacy Day.** In addition to individual meetings with federal champions, we catalyzed our members to join a unified voice about policies needed to address social isolation and loneliness during our **Virtual Advocacy Day** during Global Loneliness Awareness Week last June.
 - *We commit to continuing our efforts to ensure our members are best positioned to schedule and prepare for meetings and plan talking points for conversations with policymakers and their staff.*



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Communications & Awareness

- ✓ **National Activation.** As part of Global Loneliness Awareness Week, we held **Conversations on Belonging, Connection, & Wellbeing** in the U.S. Capitol, an event featuring keynote remarks by U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy and NBC Today's Jenna Bush Hager.
 - *We plan to host the second-annual Conversations on Belonging again in 2023 in conjunction with Global Loneliness Awareness Week.*
- ✓ **Events and Recognitions.** We hosted our third-annual **End Social Isolation and Loneliness Action Forum**, a three-day global event that convened thought leaders and change-makers to promote real, evidence- and system-based change as well as spur nationwide commitments to take action to end social isolation and loneliness. As part of this year's Action Forum, which featured Goldie Hawn, U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, Representatives Linda Sanchez and John Curtis, Mayors Ron Nirenberg and Brandon Scott, Julia Hartz, and many more - we created the **Marcia Slater Johnston Award** which grants one individual who demonstrates leadership in community-based efforts to addressing social isolation or loneliness funds to continue their efforts.
 - *With much excitement, we are committing to hosting the Action Forum in-person in 2023 in Boston, MA.*
 - *We will again be awarding a microgrant to the 2023 recipient of the Marcia Slater Johnston Award.*
- ✓ **New Subcommittees.** We launched an **Older Adults Working Group**, whose aim is to focus on addressing isolation and loneliness for the aging population in the United States. Composed of Coalition members, this subcommittee meets monthly to share resources and determine best practices for promoting social connection among older adults for widespread adoption.
 - *We are committing to launching a **Young Adults Working Group** in partnership with Eventbrite in early 2023, whose aim will be to look at the implications of loneliness and isolation and promote social connection among younger generations.*
- ✓ **National Awareness.** We continued our partnership with the **Far From Alone campaign**, a national awareness campaign promoting resources that increase social connectedness and reduce feelings of loneliness.

& More!

- ✓ **New Members.** We welcomed new members to the Coalition in 2022 including: **HERO Health, The National Alliance for Caregiving, Foundation for Arts and Healing, Wisdo, The Clowder Group, Papa, American Society on Aging, DOROT, Front Porch, The Society for Social Health & Wellbeing, Intuition Robotics, Barnes Family Foundation, Social Weather, and Sunny.**
 - *We commit to continuing our efforts to ensure we have broad and diverse stakeholders at the table with us so we may strengthen our efforts to end social isolation and loneliness. If you know of an organization that would be a great addition to our collective, please **let us know!***
- ✓ **Our Growing Team.** In addition to growing our membership base in 2022, we have been thrilled to expand our team as well, adding a Research & Innovation Program Manager, two Social Connection Fellows, and a Communications Advisor.
 - *We are still growing! We are currently expanding our team, and will be adding an Implementation & Innovation Program Manager, as well as a Partnerships Intern.*



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Scientific Advisory Council (SAC)

- ✓ **New Experts.** We are proud to have added the following esteemed individuals to the Foundation's **Scientific Advisory Council**: Dr. Nicole Ellison, Professor, School of Information, University of Michigan; Dr. Harry Reis, Professor of Clinical and Social Psychology, University of Rochester; Dr. Mark Van Ryzin, Research Associate Professor, University of Oregon.
- ✓ **Sector Reports.** The SAC continues to develop the **Systems Of Cross-sector Integration and Action across the Lifespan (SOCIAL) Framework**, which aims to facilitate and accelerate progress toward a society that values social connectedness across the lifespan and in all societal domains. This framework illustrates untapped opportunities to significantly influence population health, many of which are not adequately addressed in national public health discourse and strategies today.
 - Thus far we have released the reports for the **Health Sector**, led by Dr. Julianne-Holt Lunstad, and **Education Sector**, led by Dr. Mark Van Ryzin.
 - We also began developing a report on the **Labor Sector** in collaboration with Karen Moseley, President of the Health Enhancement Research Organization (HERO), and Jessica Grossmeier, researcher and author of Reimagining Workplace Well-being: Fostering a Culture of Purpose, Connection, and Transcendence.
 - *In 2023, we are excited to develop additional materials focusing on social connection in the Housing, Transportation, Environment, Nutrition, and Leisure sectors. We will continue to mindfully produce these reports, avail them for public comment, and disseminate broadly. Stay tuned!*
- ✓ **Evidence Translation.** Members of the SAC advised on a number of projects this year, including:
 - Supporting the development and evaluation of individual social connection interventions.
 - Providing technical assistance for federal projects such as the Administration for Community Living's Commit to Connect and the **Center for Disease Control's Building Resilient Inclusive Communities** (BRIC) programs, and a peer review of a report from the Office of the Surgeon General.
 - Providing public education through presentations of research at conferences, including APHA, ASA, F4SC Action Forum, and more.
 - Developing and submitting proposals for national surveillance and the prioritization of isolation, loneliness, and social support, which included:
 - Submission of a written comment advocating for the inclusion of a social connection objective in Healthy People 2030.
 - Development of a proposal for the measurement of social isolation, loneliness, and social support in the 2024 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.
- ✓ **Pioneering Research.** SAC members also conducted and published their own significant research and articles:
 - Dr. Julianne Holt-Lunstad (SAC Chair), Dr. Nicole Ellison, and Dr. Eden Litt participated in the Meta-Gallup **State of Social Connections Study**, an exploration of how social connections vary across different geographic regions.
 - Dr. Carla Perissinotto published an Opinion Piece in JAMA, "**The True Cause of Death**," on the need to list social isolation and loneliness as causes of death on death certifications.
 - Dr. Julianne Holt-Lunstad explored and explained how social isolation is an **Underappreciated Determinant of Physical Health**.
 - Dr. Louise Hawkey published **research** on the experiences of loneliness across the lifespan, and along with Dr. Carla Perissinotto, an **assessment** of loneliness among older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Innovation Accelerator

- ✓ **More Innovators.** This year, through the **Innovation Accelerator**, the F4SC met with dozens of innovators to share learnings, provide resources, and make connections with the goals of supporting the development of and infusion of evidence into new solutions for social connection, isolation, and loneliness applications.
- ✓ **New Partners.** We worked with amazing Innovation Accelerator partners **Art Pharmacy**, **Only7Seconds**, and **Kinnd**, and developed a social connection strategy for a health plan.
- ✓ **Bolder Goals.** Through our Innovation Accelerator:
 - *We commit to catalyzing evidence-based innovative solutions that particularly focus on places of belonging including schools and workplaces;*
 - *We also plan to pilot-test social isolation and loneliness interventions in high-risk populations and geographies over the coming year and share those learnings widely.*
 - *We commit to developing toolkits and practical guides for local leaders and communities to help build communities of connection.*

We Need YOU!

Here are 3 ways you can continue to support this cause:

1. **CONTRIBUTE** Get involved! We encourage active participation in our monthly full Coalition member meetings and are always looking for new voices on our subcommittees and working groups. If you have a special interest in communications/awareness, policy, older adults, or younger adults, reach out to Meg Wallace (mwallace@healthspieren.com) to learn more about the subcommittee that's right for you.
2. **GROW** We are stronger together! We are always looking for new and unique perspectives to add to our efforts; if you know an individual or group whose voice would be a valuable addition to our Coalition, please let us know!
3. **SHARE** Help us make our collective voice heard by sharing, reposting, and spreading the word about our work with your networks! You can also sign up to receive the Foundation's weekly research reports!



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