

JULIA O'HANLON

jusmith@udel.edu
<https://tinyurl.com/3p2pn6e3>

BIOGRAPHY

As a Lead Policy Scientist with the Institute for Public Administration (IPA) at the University of Delaware's Biden School of Public Policy and Administration, Julia O'Hanlon is responsible for providing a wide range of project leadership, applied research, and policy expertise to IPA staff, state and local officials, and nonprofit organizations. Julia's primary expertise involves state and local management, aging-related policy issues, and mobility for older adults. She serves as IPA's *Health and Aging Policy Services Coordinator* and as the staff liaison with the Delaware League of Local Governments. She communicates regularly with state agency directors, local government officials, nonprofit directors/staff, and community leaders and serves as a lead project manager and principal investigator for many IPA projects. Recent public policy and research activities have focused on evaluating healthy aging programs, aging in place/emergency preparedness, evaluation and funding of senior centers, researching the impact of Delaware's senior population on statewide transportation and mobility options, identifying intergenerational opportunities in Delaware, and working with Delaware local governments on professional development opportunities and aging in place/aging-friendly assessments. She has held various leadership roles among public policy organizations nationally and in Delaware. In 2017, Julia was appointed by Delaware Governor John Carney to serve a three-year term on the Delaware Health Resources Board.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Institute for Public Administration, Joseph R. Biden, Jr. School of Public Policy and Administration
University of Delaware – Newark, DE

Lead Policy Scientist Policy Scientist – *Health and Aging Policy Services Coordinator* (April 2025 – Present)

- Manages program area/serves as budget unit lead
- Develops new partnerships and funding mechanisms to support partnerships
- Oversees and conducts research on aging and infrastructure related issues
- Makes presentations, plans forums and workshops, and leads training efforts on aging in place related topics

Policy Scientist – *Health and Aging Policy Services Coordinator* (July 2016 – 2025)*

- Spearheaded the development of IPA's Healthy Aging Policy Services program area
- Sought out partnerships and obtained funding to facilitate programs that support older Delawareans
- Oversaw and directed staff and engaged students on a variety of complex projects and experiential learning opportunities
- Developed and managed budgets to support healthy aging program area
- Compiled and authored publications; developed and delivered presentations and training information
- Collaborated with multiple state agencies/divisions, local governments, and nonprofits to direct initiatives

EDUCATION

Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.)

University of Delaware, Newark, DE
May 2003, State and Local Management

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

University of Delaware, Newark, DE
May 1998, Political Science

SELECT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

American Society for Public Administration – Member; Past Chair, *PA Times*

Delaware Association for Public Administration – Member, Past President

Delaware Health Resources Board - Governor Appointed Member (2017-2021)

Strategic Doing Practitioner – June 2022-Present

*Served in intermediate and junior-level and limited-term positions at IPA prior to 2016 at IPA-UD; graduate research assistant 2001-2003

Applied Research and Public Service

Ardens Villages

During the fall of 2024, worked with Delaware Sea Grant colleagues to support the three Ardens villages in a planning and facilitating an aging in place workshop. This included a presentation to identified community members and stakeholders, and a Strategic Doing activity.

Readiness Workshops (with Delaware Sea Grant)

Lewes Area (involving City of Lewes, Village Volunteers)

South Coastal Area (involving Town of South Bethany, Bethany Beach)

State of Delaware Agency Projects

Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities

- **State Plan on Aging**
 - Supported the division's public outreach and engagement efforts including coordinating and facilitating multiple jurisdictional workshops; plan update is a federal requirement
- **Healthy Aging Mini Grants Program**
 - Working with the University of Delaware's College of Health Sciences' Health, Behavior, and Nutrition Department, developed and facilitated the program evaluation of sixteen senior center programs receiving funding to support healthy aging (physical fitness, nutrition programs); this project involved mixed evaluation methods including quantitative (survey development) and qualitative research (conducting focus groups). DSAAPD has indicated it will continue this partnership in 2025.

Office of the Controller General: Senior Center Grant in Aid Funding Formula – Annual Project Partnership and Full Assessment Facilitation

- Annual ongoing project with the State of Delaware, Office of the Controller General (CG); in addition to managing the budget and work plan, I also continue to conduct site visits with senior centers, coordinate and supervise students, as well as a senior fellow designated to assist with data analysis components of the project. Each spring, service level and participation categories assigned through our assessment process are reported to the state. Funding scenarios are also developed and considered. These reports and scenarios help the state legislature determine GIA allocations to each center. Total funding allocated to senior centers through this process was over \$9 million as of June 30, 2024.

Data Visualization Tools and Resources to Support Local Planning Efforts

Delaware Equitable Planning for Local Adaptation Needs (DE-PLANS)

[DE-PLANS](#) is a one-stop resource for aiding emergency management, resilience planning, and outreach related to Delaware's older adults. The Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) funded the development of this platform. This platform, DE-PLANS, compiles social vulnerability data, social services, infrastructure, and hazard information in one place to support state, county, and local planning efforts related to emergency management preparedness and aging in place. [Project partners](#) include DEMA, Delaware Sea Grant, and IPA; serve as the lead IPA point of contact for determining content updates and in the development of case studies.

Local Government Training

[Aging in Place Strategies and Issues for Local Governments \(for the Delaware Municipal Clerks Program\)](#) – September 25, 2020

[Aging in Place Strategies and Tools for Your Community During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond](#) - October 21, 2020 (with Sean O'Neil and Debra Young)

[Aging in Place and Emergency Preparedness: Tools and Resources to Address the Needs of Your Community's Older Adult Population](#) – June 18, 2020 (with Danielle Swallow and Nicole Minni)

Policy Briefs

- [Delaware's Process for Projecting Demographic and Population Estimates– Overview, Evolution, and the Future Role of the Delaware Population Consortium](#)
- [Understanding Opioid Related Health Issues Among Older Adults](#)
- [Transportation Network Companies, Transportation Brokerage Companies, and Non-Emergency Medical Transportation](#)
- [The Role of Senior Centers in Mitigating Alzheimer's and other Forms of Dementia](#)

Reports and Project Deliverables

Aging in Place Related Projects

[Innovative Title III Senior Healthcare Program: Year 3 Final Report \(2022\)](#)

This report represents a partnership across UD departments, including the Center for Research in Education and Social Policy (CRESP) in the College of Education, the Institute for Public Administration in the Biden School of Public Policy and Administration, and Behavioral Health and Nutrition in the College of Health Sciences. This partnership was formulated based on a call I received from a Delaware senior center requesting evaluation services to support a federally funded effort by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, **Administration for Community Living** (ACL). Through cross-college communication and strategic thinking, the three UD units were awarded a subcontract to support this program. For additional information, please review additional information about the [We Care program](#) and the [UDaily article](#) (*For the Record*) dated February 17, 2023.

[Planning for Aging Friendly Communities: An Assessment of Two Sussex County Communities](#) Prepared in October 2019 by Julia O'Hanlon, Policy Scientist, Institute for Public Administration, Biden School of Public Policy & Administration, College of Arts & Sciences, University of Delaware. This report was written in coordination with Sustainable Coastal Communities Initiative and the Delaware Sea Grant College Program at the University of Delaware.

Transportation and Infrastructure Projects

Annually, I lead in planning and facilitating prominent events, including [policy forums](#), [webinars/virtual forums](#), and workshops that relate to IPA projects and my role at IPA.

[Coordinated Public Transit–Human Services Transportation Plan for Delaware](#) (2020)

As part of a partnership and paid contract with the Delaware Transit Corporation (DTC), the Coordinated Public Transit–Human Services Transportation Plan, or “Coordinated Plan,” for the State of Delaware was developed through a participatory planning process and serves as a strategic framework for addressing the state’s existing and future mobility needs. It is aligned with and conforms to the current federal framework focused on the need to enhance mobility for all transportation-disadvantaged populations (e.g., older adults, persons with disabilities, veterans, low-income individuals, non-drivers, and no-car households).