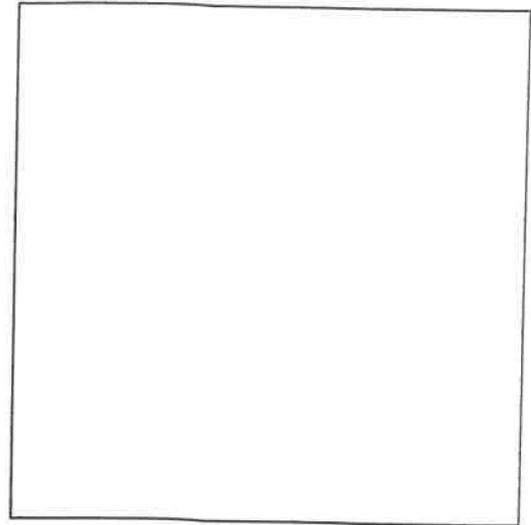


**EXHIBIT A – INFORMED CONSENT –  
Nutrition Innovations Research Study (#19020802)**

Site principal Investigator: Paul H. Bennett, PhD, MSW and  
Karen Mayer, PhD, RN  
Department: ROP:H – Professional Nursing Practice  
Address: AgéOptions, 1048 Lake Street, #300,  
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708-383-0258; 800-699-9043  
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Protocol Title: Nutrition Innovations Research Study  
(#19020802)  
Sponsor(s) AgeOptions



**Key Information**

You are being invited to participate in the research study of a program evaluation. Research studies answer important questions that might help change or improve the way we do things in the future.

It is hoped that the information we are about to share will tell you about the study and to help you decide whether you want to participate. We will be reading this consent to you; please ask any questions you have before telling us that you agree to be in the study.

Receiving help from AgeOptions is voluntary, as well as your participation in the research. You do not have to participate in this study portion of this program to receive our help. If you decide not to participate in this study today or in the future, again your ability to receive any assistance from AgeOptions or from your healthcare provider which could be Rush University Medical Center or Oak Street Health will not change or be affected.

**Purpose of Study**

The purpose of this study is to explore the value of what is called a closed loop referral system and the benefit of services provided to you. A closed-loop referral system is one where nurses, social workers and doctors who make referrals for programs for you such as meals will know if you received the food or actually went to a dining site. We also want to find-out if the services provided to you were helpful.

**Funding of this Study**

The study is funded by a grant from the United States Administration on Community Living.

**Cost and Benefit**

There is no cost to participate in this study and you will not receive anything from us regarding your participation in this study other than possibly services. However, while the help you may receive is free, you may be asked to donate towards the cost of some of the food services. Here again, contributions are voluntary.

**Potential Risks**

We have not identified any risks to you in answering our questions. However if at any time you feel uncomfortable answering a question, you can decide not to answer the question or just tell us to stop asking our questions. In addition, there is always a risk of loss of confidentiality or information about your identity. AgeOptions is taking precautions to secure your identity and will not be disclosing this information to anyone beyond the researchers at AgeOptions.

## **What you are Being Asked to Do**

As a participant in the study portion of this program, you will be asked some questions now about your health and well-being and then we will contact you again in about eight (8) weeks to ask you many of the same and a few additional questions. Answering these questions may take between 10 to 15 minutes of your time. These questions will pertain to what you think about your health and well-being and your satisfaction with the services you may receive.

## **What about confidentiality of your medical information?**

This authorization is voluntary. Rush University Medical Center and its affiliates ("Rush") will not withhold or refuse your treatment, payment, enrollment, or eligibility for benefits if you sign this authorization. You do not have to sign this authorization, but that means that you cannot be in the study or receive study-related treatment.

By signing this document, you voluntarily authorize (give permission to) Paul H. Bennett, PhD, Karen Mayer PhD and their study team, and other Rush personnel involved with the conduct and review of this study (which may include off-site personnel) to use or disclose (release) health information that identifies you for the study described in this document.

During the study, Paul H. Bennett, PhD, Karen Mayer PhD and their study team, will collect Protected Health Information (PHI) about you for the purposes of this research. PHI is your health information that includes your medical history and new information obtained as a result of this study. Some of this information will come from your medical record. The health information that Rush may use or disclose for this research includes: Name, Address, Gender, Contact information including Telephone Number and/Email Address and Age.

Paul H. Bennett, PhD, Karen Mayer PhD and their study team may share your health information and the results of your study-related procedures and tests with people outside of Rush who assist with the conduct and review of this study. The persons who receive your health information may not be required by Federal privacy laws to protect it and may share your information with others without your permission, but only if permitted by the laws governing them. Your health information described above may be used or disclosed to:

- To the Researcher, Paul H. Bennett, PhD at AgeOptions and Oak Street Health
- The study Sponsor, United States Administration on Community Living
- Monitoring agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the National Institutes of Health and the Rush Institutional Review Board (IRB).

While you participate in the study you will have access to your medical record, but Paul H. Bennett, PhD, and Karen Mayer PhD are not required to release your study information that is not part of your medical record. Rush is required by law to protect your health information, and study records that identify you will be kept confidential. The results of study tests/procedures performed as part of this study may become part of your medical record. Any study information in your medical record will be kept indefinitely. Your identity will not be revealed on any report, publication, or at scientific meetings.

You have a right to inspect and copy the information to be disclosed with this authorization and you may obtain a copy of the information by contacting the office listed above.

If you no longer want to be in the study and do not want your future health information to be used, you may change your mind and revoke (take back) this authorization at any time by writing to Paul H. Bennett, PhD at AgeOptions, 1048 Lake Street, #300, Oak Park, IL 60301. If the authorization is revoked, you will no longer be allowed to participate in the study and previously authorized individuals/entities may still use or disclose health information that they have already obtained about you as necessary to maintain the integrity or reliability of the current study.

This authorization is valid for the entirety of this research study. It will expire upon completion of the study or if you revoke (take back) the authorization.

If you withdraw from this study, the data already collected from you may not be removed from the study records. The study doctors and/or study team may ask you whether they can continue to collect follow-up data on you. If follow-up information will be requested, you will be asked to sign a separate consent form before this information can be collected.

Records of participation in this study will be maintained and kept confidential as required by law. You will be assigned a participant identifier. A password and encrypted document will be maintained with your name and assigned identifier. In a separate password and encrypted document will be your responses to questionnaires. Both of these documents will be stored in password and encrypted protected files in Microsoft Office 365 which maintains the files in the Cloud

### Sharing of Results of the Study

AgeOptions intends to publish the results of our study findings. However, it is important that you know, that no personal information about you will ever be shared regarding your participation in this study.

### Questions

Do you have any questions? Can you tell me in your own words, what you are agreeing to do?

If you have any questions in the future, you can reach the Manager of this program and coordinator of this project, Paul Bennett at 800-699-9043. In addition, we will be happy to send you a copy of what I am reading to you.

### Consent

Do you agree to participate in this study by answering some questions now and that we may contact you again in approximately eight weeks from now?

If yes, the name of individual and NowPow Identifier number will be recorded in an Excel Spreadsheet with the columns to record the following:

- Name: \_\_\_\_\_
- Date: \_\_\_\_\_ NowPow Identifier #: \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, would you like us to send you a copy of the statement which we just read to you? If yes, a column in the same Excel Spreadsheet will record that a copy was sent to the individual

- Enter date only if request is made for a copy: \_\_\_\_\_

For those that give consent, a column in the same Excel Spreadsheet will record the name of the AgeOptions staff who obtained consent and the date of consent.

*I have received consent from this individual to participate in the Nutrition Innovations Research Study (#19020802).*

- Name of AgeOptions Staff Who Obtained Consent: \_\_\_\_\_
- Date Consent was obtained: \_\_\_\_\_