

## **Blueprint Highlights July 2006**

- The Blueprint has hired Maureen Gallagher as Administrative Coordinator. Additionally, she will work with the Senior Advocates of Washtenaw. An Eastern Michigan student, Bethany Burge, will be working in the Blueprint completing hours required for her Gerontology minor. A University of Michigan Master of Social Work student, Deborah Renner, will be with the Blueprint fall semester with projects to be determined.

- Blueprint Project Director and Project Manager are working with Spitfire Strategies to create a clear message that will articulate four Blueprint goals:
  - Blueprint staff and Core Leadership will deliver a unified message to the community regarding the Blueprint for Aging strategic plan and pilot projects.
  - Three sources that fund community services for older persons require grantee alignment with Blueprint goals, objectives and strategies.
  - Washtenaw County providers have an accurate and accessible electronic method to share client information regarding long-term care service.
  - Twelve Washtenaw County community seniors have been recruited and trained to serve on the Senior Implementation Council providing expertise, guidance and oversight to community-based initiatives of the Blueprint

Spitfire has been contracted by CPFOA to assist projects as they create a communication plan for the project. Communication plans should be completed by December 2006.

- Work continues to complete CLT membership and to identify Chair and Co-chair positions. Plans continue for a Blueprint Community kickoff on September 8.

- A subcommittee of the Long-term Care Systems Change workgroup called FANG (Friendly Aging Neighborhoods Group) - is scheduled to meet on July 28 to discuss a draft request for proposal document submitted by a group member. This suggested BFA RFP is meant to help selected neighborhoods participate in the Blueprint's Community Volunteers Pilot Project. This project involves training trusted volunteers already living in neighborhoods to assist seniors in linking with needed services. Minutes will be posted on the Blueprint website.

- The Senior Advocates of Washtenaw (SAW) is sponsoring a Town Hall meeting on August 28 at Brecon Village in Saline. Representative Pam Byrnes will moderate a panel of experts addressing topics of interest to seniors followed by a Question & Answer period. The flyer for this event will be distributed to CLT members by email and, in addition, will be available on the Blueprint website.

- A Blueprint Technology Workgroup sub-committee met to begin developing a website for the senior resource decision tree. An article addressing the user friendliness of websites targeting seniors by committee members Rose Ziemba and Justine Bykowski will help guide the group process. Dale Fitch and Larry Cohn presented senior service web sites for review by the group to

determine workable paths that will allow seniors and their families to find appropriate information and services on line.

- Director and staff member of HelpSource met with Blueprint staff to discuss ways for the Blueprint to work with partnering agencies in leveraging funds for senior community services.
- Blueprint Project Director and Project Manager attended HelpSource's community partners picnic.
- Experience working with the "highly successful" Blueprint for Aging was mentioned by County Commissioner Barbara Bergman on EMU's radio station, WEMU 89.9 FM.
- The Blueprint Pilot Project Coordinator mailed copies of AAA 1-B's report on Medicare's drug prescription program (Part D) to elected officials as well as local print media. The report is derived from a SAW meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at which over 60 seniors and service providers gave input on their experiences with the program to representatives from the offices of their US Senators and Congressmen.
- Request from Director of Aging Institute of Michigan to include the Blueprint in an AARP Livable Communities sponsored website that highlights and links viewers to a number of Best Project initiatives throughout Michigan.