

Rethink Aging

A newsletter of the Blueprint for Aging

Blueprint for Aging
Project

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www.BlueprintForAging.org

Welcome!

From Rachel Dewees, Editor

You are reading the very first Rethink Aging Newsletter! It is our goal that this publication will serve as a one-stop source of current information about the Blueprint for Aging. Inside you will discover what the other work groups are accomplishing and striving toward. You will also find information about upcoming Blueprint-related events as well as other events in the area of aging. This newsletter will be sent electroni-

cally to work group members and interested community members. It will also be available as a link on our brand new website (BlueprintForAging.org). It can be printed should you want a hard copy.

It takes input to make a newsletter informative and so I strongly urge you to be in touch about upcoming events in your agency and work group updates. Articles written by individuals about aging-



Blueprint Staff: Jill Kind, Dana Bright, Rachel Dewees, Scott Layher

related issues relevant to the Blueprint are welcome and may be included where appropriate.

UPDATE FROM TECHNOLOGY WORK GROUP

Submitted by John Martin, Co-Chair

The Technology Work Group is in the process of developing a prototype data base called Shared Point of Access. Participating agencies will enter consumer in-

formation into this secured, shared data base so that other agencies, identified family members, and the consumers themselves may have access to it. A few of the many benefits

would be cutting down on duplication of information-gathering, providing a service history, and allow involved family members to better track service provision for their loved ones.

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Did you know...

that the Blueprint is officially part of the County Human Services Community Collaborative? Read more about it in the Core Leadership Update on page 3 of this newsletter.

UPDATE FROM FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT

Submitted by Dana Bright

The charge to members of the Family Caregiver Support Workgroup is to create a comprehensive plan to support caregivers in Washtenaw County. Early on, this group identified as its mission: Build a community that is responsive to its caregivers; and this as its goal: Understand and meet the needs of the county's caregivers. To do that, Workgroup members are very hard at work engaging caregivers in focus groups, one on one

interviews, and surveys in order to hear from as many caregivers as possible about what *they* think are the most important priorities. Recommendations from the original BASP report and public policy recommendations from the State Office for Services to the Aging as well as data from professionals in the community regarding caregiver service utilization are also being reviewed and further researched.

Once these information-gathering techniques are completed, the Workgroup members will use what they have learned to begin building a plan that assists caregivers with the important work they do. If you know of a caregiver or group of caregivers who might be interested in sharing their ideas with the Blueprint for Aging, please contact Dana Bright at 734-712-2718 or dbright@csswashtenaw.org.

UPDATE FROM LONG TERM CARE WORK GROUP

Submitted by Ruth Campbell, Co-chair



Edna Bridges, Ken Person, and Martha Maxwell at R.S.V.P. Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

The Long-Term Care workgroup has been subdivided into four working groups: Information Dissemination, Focus Groups, Community Forums and Service Restructuring. The Information Dissemination group is focusing on how people access information to long-term care and on the quality of that information. They are compiling a grid of "information doorways," people in the community who need to get information and what kind of information they need. They are also evaluating the information given by 211 and will make some suggestions for improvements. The focus group will do their first group in July at the

Jewish Community Center. The Community Forums group is working with Dana Bright on the upcoming forum in Chelsea. The Service Restructuring group has been investigating the expansion of shared housing as an affordable option. The group has also explored the 24 hour line to see if that service is needed as an adjunct to 211 and the Alzheimer's Hotline. This subgroup is also contacting neighborhood associations and meeting with Susan Sweet-Scott of the Senior Nutrition Program to explore how community volunteers could be integrated into these groups.

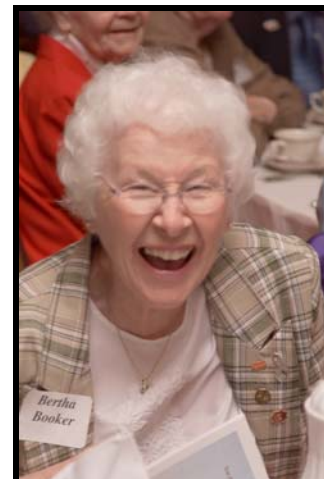
UPDATE FROM ADVOCACY WORK GROUP

Submitted by Jim McGuire, Co-Chair

The Advocacy workgroup is laying the foundation for the creation of a new advocacy organization, the Senior Advocates of Washtenaw. The workgroup is studying various models of how senior advocacy organizations are structured, and will

recommend a model that is the best fit for Washtenaw County. In addition, the group has examined the scope of advocacy issues raised by the original Blueprint document, in an effort to target its advocacy efforts on is-

suess that relate to concerns of the original Blueprint partners. The workgroup is also considering developing an advocacy training program, and plans to conduct a Senior Advocacy Summit for Washtenaw County.



Bertha Booker at R.S.V.P. Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

UPDATE FROM STEERING COMMITTEE

Submitted by Jill Kind, Chair

The Core Leadership Team of the Blueprint for Aging has as its task to synthesize all the information and input from the workgroups and subcommittees into an overall plan for Washtenaw County. Our goal is to reform

Long Term Care Systems (defined broadly as a system of community supports and institutional options) into a plan for Washtenaw County seniors. Our responsibilities are to ensure that Blueprint priorities reflect com-

munity interests and to keep the project focused and on task. And that last job is formidable, because of the magnitude of the work going on throughout our community, evident in the descriptions you'll read in this newsletter.

The good news is the caliber of the Core Leadership Team. Senior volunteers such as Jean Robinson, Ed Marsh, Paul Forringer and John Martin bring the insight, skill and experience

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UPDATE FROM PUBLICITY WORK GROUP

Submitted by Tayne Andrews, Work Group Member

The Publicity Work Group is moving forward on many key issues that will increase Blueprint for Aging exposure in the Washtenaw County community. The Work Group has been reviewing and

making a selection of a logo for Blueprint for Aging. After meeting with several advertising agencies and listening to proposals the group has made a decision. We will be using the NEW Center's own

Suityin Lee who has designed a logo for business cards, letterheads and envelopes. The business logo design will be completed soon and will be

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Save the Date!

The Senior Summit 2005 Conference on Aging will be held August 25th at Grand Traverse Resort & Spa. Featured speaker will be Ken Dychtwald, Ph.D., author of The Age Wave and Age Power

Call 231.941.1905 for more information

Publicity Update continued

(Continued from page 3)

revealed sometime this month. This logo will be the visual link that represents Blueprint for Aging and will be used in all aspects of promotion and communication.

A brochure outlining the mission and purpose of Blueprint for Aging is now available for group members as you work and talk with contacts in the community. This will help us get the word out and increase awareness of older adult is-

ssues in the county and help you provide needed information to contacts. When the logo design is up and running this will be incorporated into the design of the brochure as well. Watch for more information.

The web site for the Blueprint is under construction and will be up and running soon. A domain name has been chosen and it is www.BlueprintForAging.org. This

domain name is not text sensitive so people will be able to access the web site without the capitalizations. It simply reads better with the caps. Once the logo is complete it will be incorporated into the web site as well.

The Publicity Work Group is the place to go to get out the global Blueprint for Aging message. A media policy was presented to the Core

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Steering Committee Update continued

(Continued from page 3)

that are critical to provide leadership in the workgroups. Agency folks such as Ruth Campbell, Jim McGuire, Hannele Waissi, Donna Lee Hornyak, Sally Kruger, Carolyn Hastings, Laurie Wechter, Barbara Penrod, and Larry Voight offer the resources of organizations and the ability to affect change in policy and program development. All bring vi-

sion, networks, contacts and productive energy.

The Core Leadership has developed a relationship with the Human Services Community Collaborative in Washtenaw County, first as an endorsed project and now as the Action Group on Aging. This is an important opportunity for the Blueprint to give

voice to aging issues county wide.

The Action Group on Aging will be working on community outcomes for senior issues and defining measures that determine performance. It provides another vehicle for seniors to be outspoken about specific resources for aging in our community.

June 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Schedule of Events

- **June 15th - Publicity Work Group Meeting**, Senior Health Building, 9:30-11:00 am
- **June 22nd - Town Hall Meeting**, Pierce Lake Elementary School, Chelsea, 10 am—noon *
- **June 21st—Technology Work Group Meeting**, Senior Health Building, 9:30-11:00 am
- **June 21st—"Universal Health Care: Why Not?"** 3-5 pm; St. Joseph Mercy Senior Health Building *
- **June 29th—Advocacy Work Group Meeting**, Senior Health Building, 9:30-11:00 am

For a complete calendar of work group meetings and sub-committee meetings (for this and other months), visit www.BlueprintForAging.org

* For more information about the Town Hall Meeting June 22nd, contact Dana Bright at 734.712.3625 or dbright@csswashtenaw.org

* For more information about "Universal Health Care: Why Not?" contact Anita Clos (ClosA@trinity-health.org) or Ruth Campbell (rcampbel@umich.edu) and see article pg. 6

Publicity Work Group continued

(Continued from page 4)

Leadership Team and is currently under review and revision. The policy will provide the structural process and the Publicity Group will provide the assistance in presenting a central voice for the Blueprint

for Aging message. The group's role is to assist in formatting press releases and help in any manner targeting publicity to the community. The Publicity Work Group members are here to help each group and sub-group get their messages

out to the media in a timely and unified manner.

Other projects continue to be underway through the Publicity Workgroup and we'll keep you informed as things develop!

UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE PUBLIC FORUM TO BE HELD

Submitted by Ruth Campbell

Saint Joseph Mercy Senior Health Services (SJMSHS) is collaborating with the University of Michigan's Turner Geriatric Clinic and sponsoring a public forum entitled "Universal Health Care: Why Not?" on Tuesday, June 21 from 3 - 5 p.m.

This discussion will be held at the Harry A. and Margaret D. Towsley Senior Health Building, located at 5361 McAuley

Drive on the campus of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Ann Arbor. This forum is free and open to the public.

The featured speaker is Joseph White, Ph.D., a professor of political science at Case Western University who is nationally known on the topics of health care finance, Social Security and Medicare. Alan Dengiz, MD, SJMSHS; Ellen Rabinowitz, Public

Health Department, Washtenaw County; and Renee Turner-Bailey from Ford Motor will provide response and commentary.

Anyone, from the general public to health care providers, is encouraged to attend. For more information about this event, please contact Anita Clos at 712-8722 or Ruth Campbell at 764-2556.