

**Washtenaw County Blueprint for Aging
Initiative Progress – by month
February 2007**

Senior Leadership

SAW's February meeting was highlighted by a presentation from Carolyn Lejuste PhD., of the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition. The focus of her presentation was on how to advocate for Long Term Care Reform. The Planning and Legislation Committee was also very active this month in developing a community education program to increase understanding of who currently pays for long-term care under different scenarios. Blueprint for Aging staff gave a brief presentation of Blueprint community initiatives designed to increase options and services for long term care in Washtenaw County.

An ad hoc committee of the Core Leadership Team met to review and to revise the Community Leadership Coordinator job description. This position will oversee the Blueprint Civic Council recruitment, training and on going activities. In addition the committee created the Blueprint Civic Council Memorandum of Understanding to be signed by members. Documents were presented to the Core Leadership for approval.

Aging in Place Initiative

Community Volunteers Pilot

The Pilot Projects Coordinator met with the CVs by neighborhood to provide support and check in on issues that arose, contacts made, and outreach ideas. In the Spring-Brooks-Summit neighborhood, the Coordinator and both CVs met with board members of the Ann Arbor Community Center to explain the program and offer the CVs as valuable contacts for seniors at the center who want to know more about available resources.

Transportation Voucher Pilot Project

FANG members conducted research on transportation programs serving seniors, including studying articles, talking to directors of programs, and ordering materials. The group met to review ideas from various programs, look at the work plan and begin setting parameters of the project. Members provided input for a presentation to the Core Leadership Team in March.

Foundation Building

Chair Frank Cambria let the Blueprint Core Leadership Team monthly meeting. Areas of discussion included reports from ad hoc committees working on projects of Positive Aging, health indicators for older adults, and the Blueprint Civic Council. Mike Scholl, coordinator of the Washtenaw County Community Collaborative presented on the structure and goals of the Collaborative. Core Leadership members participated in training led by Blueprint Director, Jill Kind, on presenting a consistent Blueprint message to different audience within our community.