

**Washtenaw County Blueprint for Aging
Highlights-By Project Initiative
March 2007**

Senior Leadership

SAW activities in March further developed the focus on educating the community on long term care. The Planning and Legislation Committee developed an educational program, “Who will pay for my long term care?” to be conducted throughout the community at senior centers, senior housing, and public venues throughout the remainder of the year. The March 26th SAW meeting was the first time this educational program was conducted. Feedback from attendees was extremely positive, with most attendees reporting that they learned new information that they could use for themselves, their family and friends, or with clients or other community members.

Community Volunteers Pilot

The Community Volunteers met in March for their Quarterly Update Meeting at which their efforts were celebrated with a special cake and thanks from the Coordinator. Time was spent sharing experiences among the four participating neighborhoods and one additional neighborhood that attended the training, but does not yet have an organized program. The group brainstormed ideas for expanding outreach efforts and listened to a presentation on NSS safety and home maintenance services.

Transportation Voucher Pilot Project

Pilot Projects Coordinator presented the Blueprint Core Leadership Team with background on the transportation voucher pilot and rationale for initiating it at this time. This plan was approved and the Blueprint Friendly Aging Neighborhoods Group met to establish framework for the project and divide into subcommittees. One will focus on the participant side – finding case managers who can identify seniors meeting requirements, developing an orientation program. The other will focus on the structure of the program – forging business agreements with providers, designing vouchers and trip diaries. These subcommittees will meet several times before the next full FANG meeting in April.

During this month, the Coordinator met with transportation providers and experts who will be represented on FANG.

Aging in Place Initiative

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Foundation Building

Core Leadership held its monthly meeting with ad hoc committee reports on the Blueprint Civic Council, Finance, Evaluation, Washtenaw County Health Improvement Plan, and Leading for Legacy, a Blueprint-RSVP collaborative project

Blueprint staff attended a national meeting sponsored by the Community Partnerships for Older Adults in Chicago.

Staff enhanced the Program Administrative Assistant job description to include additional responsibilities in publicity and communications, along with advocacy. The position was advertised, and a highly qualified candidate, Jean Borger, was hired.