

**Washtenaw County Blueprint for Aging
Year 2 Initiative Progress by Month
May 2007**

Senior Leadership Initiative

Senior Advocates of Washtenaw

“How Will I Pay for Long-Term Care”- Money Follows the Person Presentation took place May 14 as part of Senior Housing Awareness Week with 43 community members attending. The event included an interactive discussion on options for long-term care payment (based on income, disability, and level of insurance coverage) and a discussion of “money follows the person” legislative initiatives that would allow Medicaid funds to be used for assisted living and in-home services as well as nursing home care

Blueprint Civic Council

Lois Gilbert, LMSW, has been hired as Community Leadership Coordinator. In this capacity she will be responsible for the Blueprint Civic Council. Additional responsibilities include liaison work between Washtenaw County’s 211 and the community as well as site supervision of Blueprint volunteers. Priority activities include recruitment and training of community members for the Blueprint Civic Council

Blueprint Volunteer System Change Pilot

The Blueprint for Aging is collaborating with RSVP through a Program of National Significance grant to encourage Baby Boomer volunteering. Our collaboration will highlight the civic contribution of Blueprint for Aging volunteers and make technology innovations to on-line recruitment, enrollment and recording of hours. The most recent issue of the *Journal of the American Society for Aging* focused on volunteerism and the Baby Boom generation, describing five initiatives that will encourage Baby Boomer volunteerism, one of which is the PNS program of the Corporation for National Service.

Aging in Place Initiative

FANG

Al Feldt, Citizen Volunteer, and Rachel Dewees, Blueprint Pilot Projects Coordinator attended the Beacon Hill Village conference in Boston. The conference offered information on the Beacon Hill model and featured speakers from other communities who have successfully adapted the model. An overall theme between all the communities is that people want to promote interdependence, as opposed to the common model of independence, in their communities. Rachel and Al will offer an Osher Lifelong Learning mini-course on July 31st discussing the conference.

Community Volunteers

Pilot Projects Coordinator and U-M student intern met with each Pilot Project neighborhood for updates. Feedback from Community Volunteers revealed that paperwork requirements are prohibitive and not successfully capturing contacts made in the community. Staff has revisited more flexible and comfortable ways to gather

information such as use of journals for informal documentation. In addition, CVs were encouraged to broaden ways of being involved in their neighborhoods

Transportation Voucher Pilot Project

The Pilot Project is progressing according to the established timeline. An advance pilot was completed with positive feedback on ease of using vouchers with formal and informal providers. The project design has been simplified. All participants will receive vouchers. Record-keeping requirements for participants have been streamlined and finalized. Voucher checkbooks for month one are printed, fine-tuning of data management program is complete and materials folders including information on providers and project details are complete.

Technology Innovation Initiative

The Technology workgroup continue to practice with the on-line referral system. Follow up training is scheduled in June.

Foundation Building Initiative

Core Leadership Team

The May meeting included presentations on the Blueprint technology innovation of electronic referral system and the Blueprint for Aging transportation voucher pilot project that will begin May 1, 2007. Members considered what type of communication tool would best help to assist them in articulating Blueprint initiatives.

Community Awareness and Education

The Communications Plan Year 1 Report was reviewed by Core Leadership and was included in the Community Partnership for Older Adults year-end report. In order to capture activity of Core Leadership Team Members on behalf of the Blueprint, members will be prompted by email to record communication activities they have done on behalf of the Blueprint.

Blueprint Highlights-email newsletter

The Blueprint for Aging Highlights in e-mail format has been created and the two editions were sent out in May. This newsletter is emailed to all current and past members of the Blueprint committees and workgroups.

Evaluation Committee:

Blueprint staff met with project evaluator, Sue Ann Savas, to further clarify the direction and scope of the Blueprint evaluation plan. Evaluation targets and activities will be organized along the four initiatives that the Blueprint for Aging has articulated in order to keep a consistent Blueprint message and to facilitate understanding of the complexity of the Blueprint's community work. The evaluation plan was submitted to the Community Partnerships for Older Adults and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Partner Development and Collaboration

The Blueprint for Aging, in collaboration with Turner Geriatric Clinic, U-M Work/Life Resource Center, Faculty and staff Assistance Program, and the Center for the Education of Women sponsored a forum on volunteering benefits and options in retirement. Core Leadership Team member Sherry Marcy was one of three speakers on *Aging with Attitude: Preparing for Retirement*.

Core Leadership Team member Sherry Marcy described the Blueprint for Aging and its initiatives, emphasizing the increase in the older adult demographic and resulting community challenges to a group of 15 exiting Pfizer workers who had been active in company volunteer programs.

All program budget, workplan, communication, evaluation, and narrative reports for Year One were submitted to the Community Partnerships for Older Adults and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.