

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

Senior Leadership Initiative

Senior Advocates of Washtenaw

The Senior Advocates sponsored a community forum with State Representative Rebekah Warren on June 25. Representative Warren opened the forum with remarks on recent budget work in the state legislature and then took questions from the 25 SAW members and others in attendance. Audience members raised a range of issues, including the recommendations of the long-term care task force, elder abuse prevention, competition for funding between programs for youth and programs for seniors, long- and, the long-term care task force

Representative Warren invited SAW members to march with her in the Ann Arbor Fourth of July parade. SAW member Tracy Byrd distributed SAW brochures and an event flier at the parade.

Blueprint Volunteers

Two Blueprint for Aging Core Leadership members offered skills and talents to the RSVP Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon with its theme of Leading for Legacy. Ed Marsh brought charisma and direction to his role as Master of Ceremonies for the event. Ingrid Sheldon as Keynote Speaker, inspired volunteers and guests as she highlighted examples of leadership demonstrated by older adults in shaping the future of our community,

Aging in Place Initiative

FANG-Blueprint for Aging Pilot Projects

Community Volunteers

Community Volunteers met for their second Quarterly Meeting on June 21. Volunteers gave positive feedback on the meeting, which was structured to include:

- A group community building exercise;
- An update from BFA staff on the greater BFA Initiative and how the Community Volunteers program fits into this greater picture;
- A review of Community Volunteer goals, which include building trust and creating networks, which both take time and effort that is difficult to measure;
- An introduction of Community Volunteer diaries that can be utilized to capture Volunteer efforts that are more inclusive of network creation and informal interactions with community members;
- A group sharing time, during which
 - Webster United Church of Christ shared the list of services congregation members volunteered as resources;
 - Lincoln shared the business cards and bookmarks they are designing; and

- West Willow shared their experience taking a leadership role planning for a new West Willow Community Garden, which broke ground at the Community Resource Center on June 30th;
- A guest presentation from Cassie Starback from Alzheimer's Association on dementia, community resources, and caring for the caregiver;
- A guest presentation from Katie Loveland with Washtenaw County Public Health showed how to encourage healthy living through the formation of walking clubs and community gardening.

BFA staff/intern met with the Springs/Brooks/Summit Community Volunteer to talk about capitalizing on the feedback from her neighborhood surveys to initiate a community event.

Transportation Voucher Pilot Project

- Collected feedback from two Ypsilanti residents who “tested out” using vouchers and made changes accordingly
- Had vouchers printed in booklets of 12 (each in triplicate for record-keeping purposes)
- Oriented participants to the project by making larger presentations in each community
 - Chelsea: roughly 10 people attended widely publicized meeting at the Chelsea Senior Center
 - Ypsilanti: roughly 35 people attended meeting at Carpenter Place and 40 at Clark East Tower (not all people were appropriate)
- Conducted a series of home visits in each community and small-scale visits at senior living buildings and one senior center
- Developed a database for collecting data utilizing expertise of University of Michigan School of Social Work professor Dale Fitch

Foundation Building Initiative

Core Leadership Team

Members identified communication outcomes such as greater communication across services providers and systems, with Blueprint as the hub-a nimble responsive structure that listens to and responds constructively to seniors and others, well as to increase public awareness of aging issues and their relevance to people of ages. Blueprint partner agencies discussed the closing of HelpSouce and ways to help the community and client cope with as little disruption of service as possible. Core Leaders continues work on evaluation our county’s current and future service delivery for long term care through systems mapping.

Community Awareness and Education

This standing workgroup had its first quarterly meeting of the new fiscal year and addressed community awareness needs. The first project is development of a Blueprint Speakers’ Bureau and necessary presentation tools. In addition, the committee is expanding the email list for the Blueprint for Aging’s e-mail newsletter, *Blueprint Highlights*.