

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

Senior Leadership Initiative

Senior Advocates of Washtenaw

The Senior Advocates of Washtenaw launched its Senior Summit Committee to plan for the upcoming Summit. Ten people attended the initial planning meeting, and efforts are under way to invite legislators, work out activities/schedule for the event, and plan publicity and recruitment. The Senior Advocates also created their first newsletter with a cover article on senior advocacy at Cranbrook Tower and a pair of articles on planning for long-term care (“Options for Seniors with Low Incomes” by Justine Bykowski, Housing Counseling Coordinator at the Housing Bureau for Seniors, and “What You Don’t Know Can Hurt You” by Elder Law attorney Josh Ard). On August 27, the Senior Advocates brought their educational series on paying for long-term care to the Chelsea Senior Center.

Aging in Place Initiative

Friendly Aging Neighborhood Group FANG-Blueprint for Aging Pilot Projects

- Community Volunteers – Each of the four neighborhoods continued efforts specific to their communities and explored new ways to build networks. FANG partners worked to develop topics for September’s Quarterly Update Meeting as well as plan intensive interviews and a short written survey to be administered to the CVs by an outside interviewer next month.
- Transportation Voucher Pilot Project – The second month of the three-month pilot was smooth with 42 of the 55 participants submitting vouchers from formal and informal providers. BFA staff continued to collect data and provide support as needed to participants and providers. Feedback from both groups has been uniformly positive.

Japanese Dementia Education Global Program Exchange

Director Jill Kind was a member of the steering committee that facilitated a week long visit of professionals working with the elderly in Japan specifically in the area of dementia. Activities included educational poster sessions and presentations related to research findings and successful practice models of stimulating and supporting older adults. Participants included physicians, therapists, group home workers, academicians, and outreach workers. Presentations were made by both Japanese and American professionals with resulting discussion groups, all facilitated by translators.

Jill Kind provided leadership for the Community Volunteerism and Outreach Pilot. Rachel Dewees and Amy Ruddock-Bleed also met with a subset of the larger group during a site visit at the Alzheimer’s Association for a session on volunteerism. BFA staff spoke to strengths and challenges of using volunteers in a collaborative to administer pilot projects. Of particular interest to the group was the Transportation Pilot.

Technology Innovation Initiative

E-referral System Change Workgroup Meeting

Two additional agencies—Jewish Family Services and Washtenaw County—have become partners in the e-referral process. Training is under way.

Foundation Building Initiative

Core Leadership Strategic Priority Setting Workshop

Staff and an ad hoc committee of Core Leadership Team members continued work with consultant Francine Alexander of Alexander Resources, LLC, to create a survey regarding priorities for project goals and initiatives. The finished survey was sent to CLT members and staff in preparation for the September priority-setting workshop. Results will inform workshop agenda and direction.

Blueprint for Aging Evaluation

Mathmatica, the evaluation firm hired by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to evaluate Community Partnerships for Older Adults projects, has scheduled their Blueprint evaluation site visit for October 24-25. Their focus during this time will be to interview a variety of Core Leadership members, staff and other partners to determine partnership effectiveness.

Blueprint evaluator Sue Ann Savas met with FANG members to determine parameters for evaluation of Blueprint pilot projects. Data gathered to date from the Community Volunteers will be evaluated and future data will be collected in a modified way (using worksheets developed by FANG for more concrete information and diaries with guiding questions for impressions, feelings, ideas for outreach, etc.) FANG will formulate a plan for how information gathered can be useful to various audiences and can be best disseminated.

Data continues to be gathered from vouchers submitted in the Transportation Voucher Pilot Project. Information is entered into a customized database that will allow the Blueprint to examine and draw informed conclusions about a range of factors that describe ways seniors solve transportation problems and the value of vouchers as an intervention.

Community Awareness and Education

Pin-on buttons with slogans were designed for distribution at Blueprint for Aging and other community events. Slogans, meant to pique interest in aging images and issues, include: Age with Attitude, Aging: Not a Dead End, and Old Dog - New Tricks.

Work is moving forward for the upcoming Aging with Attitude Art Exhibition to be held March 7 - 28, 2008, at the University of Michigan School of Art and Design Slusser Gallery. Blueprint staff, partners, university liaisons, and interested community members have been working out logistics and a timeline for the show. The group hopes to issue a call for art in September or October to begin the process of collecting art for the show.

Community Partnerships for Older Adults

Staff participated in a telephone conference with CPFOA for reporting BFA accomplishments, initiatives and challenges, as well as CPFOA technical assistance. CPFOA will host its Annual Teaching and Learning Meeting in Tucson, October 15-17. Four staff and Core Leadership members will attend.