

**Washtenaw County Blueprint for Aging
Initiative Progress by Month
April 2007**

Senior Leadership

Senior Advocates of Washtenaw

The Executive Committee and the Planning and Legislation Committee of the Senior Advocates of Washtenaw met jointly to discuss the mission and activities of SAW (04-09-07). They decided to recommend that SAW 1) stay with the Blueprint for Aging and focus on educating and empowering individuals, and 2) not be directly involved in lobbying as a group

The Senior Advocates of Washtenaw held its first “How Will I Pay for Long-Term Care?” presentation out in the community at Towne Centre Place in Ypsilanti (04-23-07). The event included an interactive discussion on options for long-term care payment based on income, disability, and level of insurance coverage; a discussion of proposed “money follows the person” legislation that would allow Medicaid funds to be used for assisted living and in-home services as well as nursing home care; and facilitated letter-writing enabling attendees to write to tell their own stories about long-term care as part of letters to their legislators. Close to 50 people attended the event, including 13 residents of Towne Center Place. Discussion was lively. Information about SAW, long-term care options and planning, and the Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program was distributed, along with information on “money follows the person,” sample letters to legislators, and contact information.

Blueprint Civic Council

The Ad Hoc Civic Council Committee completed its work in setting goals and parameters of the Civic Council. Applications for membership on the Civic Council have been distributed. Seniors who are selected for the Civic Council will represent the Blueprint for Aging throughout the community. Civic Council members will gather and share information from the places where seniors congregate and encourage their participation and input. Information gathered by TACC members regarding the needs, strengths and utilization of services in respective communities will be incorporated into Blueprint goals and program evaluation.

Blueprint Volunteer Pilot Program

The Ad Hoc Leading for Legacy Committee has completed the initial phase of determining how the Blueprint can most successfully lead volunteer system change in volunteer image and recruitment, application, placement and recording of hours. This project will now be developed and implemented as a pilot project, using civic members of Blueprint committees and workgroups to test developing system changes.

Aging in Place Initiative

FANG-Community Volunteers Pilot

Blueprint for Aging Pilot Projects Coordinator continued to provide ongoing support to Community Volunteers in their neighborhoods who are continuing outreach efforts. This program will benefit from a four day per week Spring and Summer semester UM McGregor Fellow Master of Social Work student intern. Staff, student and BFA evaluator, Sue Ann Savas, will monitor pilot progress, adjusting objectives and activities, as project effectiveness requires. Staff support over the next few months will focus on increasing visibility of the project as well as evaluation of the model in the varying settings.

FANG-Transportation Voucher Pilot Project

Two subcommittees of FANG (Friendly Aging Neighborhoods Group) met several times in April to work out details of recruitment and training of participants and providers in addition to refining project materials (voucher, trip diaries, etc.). A timeline was presented and approved by the Core Leadership Team. The pilot, involving a subject group and a control group in both Chelsea/Dexter and Ypsilanti, is slated to begin July 1st. During the month of May, two participants in Ypsilanti will test the vouchers providing valuable input about ease of use, reimbursement of providers, data collection and more before the pilot begins. Orientation to the program will take place in late May/early June in each community.

Technology Innovation

E-referral Training

Caseworkers and managers from Catholic Social Services, HelpSource and Neighborhood Senior Services met to learn how to make referrals and provide input to the Electronic Referral Process. Participants were given login IDs and will practice with the system for a month and the committee will reconvene to make any necessary adjustments.

Foundation Building

Aging with Attitude

Blueprint staff met with UM art department staff and collaborating artist to discuss the 2008 Aging with Attitude art exhibit that the Blueprint for Aging will sponsor. Blueprint partners will be able to help in planning community events around the exhibit theme offering opportunities for community members to express their artistic ideas of Aging with Attitude.

Core Leadership Team

A Presentation on Technology Innovation from partner Larry Cohn included the Shared Point of Access database features with a specific focus on the Electronic Referral System.

Pilot. The Transportation Pilot timeline and progress was presented by staff with more specific detail and goals for the Leadership Team. The pilot will begin May 1, 2007.

Progress of the evaluation ad hoc committee was shared and core leadership priorities were collected.

Two exiting members of the Core Leadership Team Hannele Waissi and Anita Clos were acknowledged for their work and commitment to the Blueprint. Staff was additionally acknowledged for work assisting another community group with a RWJF site visit and subsequent funding.

Community Awareness and Education Committee

An ad hoc committee of Community Awareness & Education formed to review the communications mission of the Blueprint for Aging, components of a BFA Communications Plan and existing communications documents. With input from this review, BFA staff will present a Communications Plan Year End Report to Core Leadership in May.

Evaluation Committee:

Members of the CLT ad hoc evaluation committee met with the contracted evaluator to discuss the Blueprint for Aging evaluation plan required by the Community Partnerships for Older Adults (CPFOA) and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The document is due to CPFOA along with all first year grant reports on May 30.

Partner Development

Blueprint Director met with Tom Miree of Ann Arbor Community Center to discuss Blueprint initiatives and potential areas of collaboration.