

Blueprint Highlights-By Project Initiative December 2006

Foundation Building

Orientation was held for Core Leadership Members who were not able to attend the November orientation. Partner Su Crabb welcomed new members and gave a brief history and vision of the Blueprint. Staff gave overviews of project workgroups and initiatives.

Chair, Frank Cambria, led the Blueprint Core Leadership Team December meeting. Agenda items included the Core Leadership Annual work plan, the structure for Blueprint Ad Hoc committees, and the process for securing older adult input and evaluation of Blueprint pilot projects. In addition, members considered a collaborative project with RSVP to highlight community leaders over 55 and eliminate bureaucratic barriers to volunteering.

The Blueprint for Aging, Turner Senior Resource Center and University of Michigan's Work-Life Resource Center are collaborating to offer a "successful aging" workshop for UM faculty and staff in the spring of 2007. UM's Community Beat magazine and Turner's newsletter will advertise the workshop. Entitled *Aging with Attitude: A New Stage of Life*, the workshop will highlight aging as a time to expand knowledge, explore creativity and enhance life experiences.

The Blueprint workgroup Community Awareness and Education held its monthly meeting. An ad hoc committee will create a plan for Blueprint publicity and highlighting aging issues in local media. Another ad hoc committee will decide how to market positive aging events and ideas. A third committee will work with the RSVP project to highlight Blueprint volunteers and to publicize a new, relevant and hip face for volunteer efforts of citizens 55 and over.

Blueprint Project Manager attended a Health Improvement Plan (HIP) Coordinating Committee meeting to discuss ways to integrate Blueprint for Aging objectives into the next HIP countywide health objectives plan.

Blueprint Director and Project Manager participated in an initial discussion of partnership progress with Todd Honeycutt of Mathematica, the evaluation firm hired by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Senior Leadership

As a result of the November 22nd SAW meeting presentation on assisted living in Washtenaw County, the Ann Arbor District Library created a blog entry underscoring the importance of understanding issues about assisted living. They also suggested books community members could find helpful in making decisions about long term care.

The full membership of Senior Advocates of Washtenaw (SAW) does not meet in December. The nominating and membership committee did meet to discuss the slate for the upcoming January election. The new membership committee will develop a membership recruitment and diversity plan for 2007.

Technology Innovation

Larry Cohn and Jill kind worked to begin development of an on-line format for tracking volunteer hours and establishing electronic signatures on the Blueprint website.

Larry Cohn, Dale Fitch and Jim Russo (Catholic Social Services) developed means for consumer data to be electronically transferred to Quickbase for Neighborhood Senior Services, HelpSource and Catholic Social Services. Actual transfer of the data remains dependent on release of information documentation from the consumer.

Aging in Place Initiative

Two volunteers from each of four test-neighborhoods participated in the Community Volunteers Pilot Project Orientation. In addition to an emphasis on team-building and mutual support, the sessions focused on physiological aspects of aging and appropriate supports, communication and boundary issues, as well as resources available in the community. Each Community Volunteer received a binder containing resource and record-keeping materials.