

**Washtenaw County Blueprint for Aging
Year 2 Initiative Progress
January and February 2008**

Senior Leadership Initiative

Senior and Community Center Workgroup

The workgroup sponsored a Day of Dialogue Washtenaw, continuing dialogue started by the Area Agency on Aging 1-B in June 2008. Representatives of nine Senior and Community Centers in Washtenaw County, along with CLT members and interested partners met to focus on ways to increase awareness of current BFA initiatives, increase knowledge of Area Agency on Aging 1-B data and resources, and to participate in a focus group to identify current and potential intersections between the work of Senior Centers and work of BFA. The focus group was lead by BFA evaluator Sue Ann Savas, who will compile findings into a report to be presented at the March Core Leadership Team meeting. A directory of centers and contact information was created and distributed to all Washtenaw County community, senior and recreation centers. Workgroup will identify next steps.

Aging in Place Initiative

Blueprint for Aging Pilot Projects

Community Volunteers:

After 12 months of Community Volunteers serving as resources in their respective neighborhoods, this pilot ended as planned December 31, 2007. Information collected from sources including records, surveys and interviews of the CVs as well as lessons learned during the pilot were presented to the Core Leadership Team at the January meeting. An executive summary of the pilot is available. In addition, output from the pilot, as well as materials from the orientation and ongoing training of the CVs, will shape a manual to be created by the Pilot Projects Work Group and made available by the Blueprint in electronic format to interested community groups.

Transportation Voucher Pilot Project:

Final results from data base reports and confidential phone interviews of participants in the pilot were presented to the Core Leadership team at the January meeting. The Pilot Projects Work Group met to discuss potential next steps and to make recommendations for further study involving programs, agencies or facilities serving seniors to use vouchers in meeting goals of increased attendance. The group will do preliminary research in the form of brief phone surveys to determine need and interest among directors of senior centers, learning in retirement programs, and medical offices before making a formal recommendation to the CLT at the March meeting. The Final Report on the Transportation Pilot will be completed in March and made available on the Blueprint website.

Neighborhood Organization Support

On February 14, BFA held a Village Model brown bag at Mallets Creek.

Technology Innovation Initiative

Volunteer Systems Change Workgroup

Workgroup met to further develop path on Blueprint website for electronic volunteer enrollment and management that will allow partners to advertise opportunities to support seniors and senior issues with a system of shared volunteers. At the next workgroup meeting members will develop a publicity plan directed toward a target Baby Boomer age population with new images of volunteering and new ways of tracking civic engagement.

Foundation Building Initiative

Core Leadership Team Meetings and Committees

Core Leadership had its bi-monthly meeting January 10. Workgroup reports included progress from the Village Model, Senior Data, Senior and Community Centers, and Fund Development workgroups. The Director's report included a draft Community Request for BFA Support form that will help clarify support requests that come to workgroups regarding community projects. A report on the progress of

Senior Data

Workgroup met to decide upon type of data and emphasis categories to increase relevance and quality of information about seniors. This data will inform the BFA as it makes LTC systems change and other relevant decisions, as well as benefiting other county stakeholders and the community at large. The workgroup inventoried existing data and identified gaps and new sources of data. Group reviewed a draft of the Washtenaw County Senior Data Book to be published in July 2008.

Community Awareness, Education and Events

Organizing for the *Aging With Attitude* art exhibit is in full swing. The three jurors met at length in order to whittle a strong field of over 200 submitted entries down to 45 exhibitors and to choose the works to exhibit from the submissions sent by invited artists. A committee met and planned workshops and brownbag discussions for the weeks following the opening reception. Publicity was arranged through local news outlets, community postings, electronic invitations, mailed postcards, and the month long display of *Aging With Attitude's* dramatic graphic on the inside of all AATA buses and on the backs of two buses.

BFA Collaborative Efforts and Initiatives

- Senior Advocates of Washtenaw-Blueprint helped with committee meeting space and with publicity of SAW community meeting
- Ann Arbor District Library—Blueprint helped with publicity for writing workshop sponsored by library. The library also created a weblog on its "community events" site solely dedicated to commentary about the upcoming *Aging with Attitude* exhibit.
- Housing Bureau for Seniors – collaboration has begun to determine Blueprint role in Washtenaw County Emergency Preparedness, specific plans for older adults
- University of Michigan School of Social Work – BFA staff taught two sessions of a class on the work of Blueprint pilots to a master's level social work class studying community involvement.

Grant Management

- Site visit from Community Partnerships for Older Adults (CPFOA), Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's oversight for our implementation phase grant. BFA partners from the workgroups and committees participated: Fund Development, Pilot Projects, Village Models, Evaluation and Aging with Attitude Art Exhibit.
- Evaluation Consultant, Sue Ann Savas, participated in telephone conference regarding Robert Wood Johnson and Community Partnerships for Older Adults evaluation of the Blueprint for Aging.

Staffing

Amy Ruddock Bleed was hired for a part time position in the Blueprint for Aging as Pilot Project Support Specialist. University of Michigan MSW intern, Emily Farber continues with the Blueprint for a second semester.