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Contact: Dana Bright, MSW
Catholic Social Services
734-712-3625 day
734-649-1265 evening
dbright@csswashtenaw.org
www.BlueprintForAging.org

Blueprint for Aging seeks help from older adults in setting community priorities

Washtenaw County, MI – Older adults and their families looking to have a lasting impact on the way long-term care and other support services are delivered in Washtenaw County are invited to attend one or more of several town hall meetings organized by the Blueprint for Aging. Those attending are asked to bring a friend along. Locations, dates, and times include:

- September 20th at Lincoln Senior Center from 10:00 a.m. to Noon
- September 23rd at Milan Senior Center from 3-5 p.m.
- September 26th at Pittsfield Senior Center from Noon to 2 p.m.
- September 27th at Northfield Senior Center from 10:00 a.m. to Noon
- September 27th at East Clark Towers from 2-4 p.m.
- September 28th at Washtenaw County Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled from 10:00 a.m. to Noon
- September 28th at Scio Farms from 10:00 a.m. to Noon
- September 29th at Dexter Senior Center from 2-4 p.m.
- September 30th at Saline Senior Center from 10:00 a.m. to Noon

All town hall meetings are free and open to the public. No pre-registration is needed. Refreshments, door prizes, and free parking are all available at each meeting location.

“The response from participants at a town hall meeting this past June in Chelsea showed that older adults and their families in Washtenaw County have a lot to say about what they think is important. Community members attending these forums will help the Blueprint set important priorities and help the county become better prepared for its fast-growing older adult population,” says Dana Bright, Blueprint for Aging Project Manager.

The Blueprint for Aging recently completed an extensive information gathering process by speaking directly with hundreds of older adults and family caregivers. The Blueprint for

Aging is now asking the community's older adults and their families to prioritize the most essential of these issues.

All service providers in the area of aging services are asked to encourage the older adults and caregivers with whom they work to attend. Assistance, such as with transportation, would be very valuable.

Those who are unable to attend a town hall meeting are asked to complete a "Priority Setting Poll," which includes the list of priorities that will be discussed at each town hall meeting. To obtain a copy of this poll, please visit www.BlueprintForAging.org or contact Dana Bright at (734) 712-3625 or dbright@csswashtenaw.org.

The Blueprint for Aging is a diverse coalition of community members and representatives from over 40 public, private, and nonprofit organizations who's vision for Washtenaw County is a community with people invested in the care of older persons and engaged and outspoken in promoting and supporting their health and wellness.

The Blueprint for Aging is an integral part of Community Partnerships for Older Adults (CPFOA) – a national program of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, one of 11 projects nationwide selected from a field of 486 applicants to receive a planning grant in 2004. It is endorsed by the Washtenaw County Human Services Community Collaborative and has received major support from the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation. For more information, visit www.BlueprintForAging.org or contact Dana Bright at 734-712-3625 or dbright@csswashtenaw.org.

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