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Human Services Community Collaborative endorses Blueprint for Aging

Washtenaw County –The number of people age 65 and older in the county is projected to increase almost 300% between 2000 and 2030. Such growth has the potential to place great demands on families and agencies providing services to older adults. In a move that reinforces the importance of the health and well-being of this growing number of older adults, the Washtenaw County Human Services Community Collaborative (HSCC) has named the Blueprint for Aging’s Core Leadership Team as its newly reorganized Action Group on Aging. The Action Group on Aging will provide leadership for funding and policies affecting older adults and their caregivers and a unified voice for issues and services for older adults.

"The vision and wisdom of many minds in the workgroups of the Blueprint for Aging have joined as one voice for aging issues in our county. Working with the Human Services Community Collaborative demonstrates that Washtenaw County is dedicated to becoming an “elder-friendly” community,” says Jill Kind, MSW, Project Director of the Blueprint for Aging.

“One of our guiding principles in Washtenaw County is to engage in intergovernmental cooperation to improve services to county residents. The leadership team will enhance our cooperative efforts and help us continue to improve our services to our older residents,” said Frank Cambria, Deputy County Administrator and Chair of the Human Services Community Collaborative.

The Blueprint for Aging is a partnership of community members and representatives from over 40 public, private, and nonprofit organizations. This group has

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been actively working together for several years to identify the needs and priorities of older adults and to create plans that address these needs and priorities in a comprehensive way. These plans include “programs on wheels”, a 24-hour helpline for caregivers, and a coalition to advocate for policy.

The Blueprint for Aging is an integral part of Community Partnerships for Older Adults (CPFOA) — a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. It is organized into five Workgroups that meet on a regular basis: Advocacy, Family Caregiver Support, Long-term Care Systems Change, Publicity, and Technology. For more information on joining the Blueprint for Aging, contact Dana Bright at (734) 712-3625.

The Washtenaw County Human Services Community Collaborative (HSCC) was established in early 2002. The HSCC fulfills a state requirement that each Michigan community have in place a Multi-Purpose Collaborative Body (MPCB). The HSCC evolved from the Washtenaw County Family Services Collaborative Council to provide leadership for policies and funding that affect services for children, families and adults among private and public community institutions.

Council membership includes consumers, advocates, and representatives of mental health, public health, social services, education, and the courts, as well as private agencies and foundations.

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