

# MCOA News

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Notes from the Executive Director: Late February 2009

**Please Circulate to Your Staff**

**MCOA's Weather Cancellation Policy:** As we 'enjoy' this winter season, MCOA would like to reiterate its weather cancellation policy. In the advent of inclement weather, MCOA may choose to cancel/ reschedule an event. **Attendees should call our telephone numbers for a recorded message on the status on any meeting, 24 hours prior to that meeting: 413.527.6425**

## Enclosed in This Mailing:

- A list of the 2009-2010 House and Senate Leadership and key committee assignments. Please review to see if your representative or senator now holds a key role on Elder Issues.

## MCOA Legislative Update: A Time of Transition

*As reported in the Late January/Early February MCOA News there have been many developments on Beacon Hill and now down in DC.*

**On the state level,** Governor Patrick has appointed **Ellie Shea-Delaney** to be the Interim Secretary of Elder Affairs, replacing Mike Festa. Ellie is quite familiar with our network having served in multiple capacities in previous administrations including Assistant Secretary of EOEA during the Romney administration and Interim Secretary during the first ten months of the Patrick Administration. **Secretary JudyAnn Bigby from EOHHS and Secretary Shea-Delaney** have already pledged to meet regularly with Elder Advocates to reopen lines of communication and tackle some of the difficult issues we all face. **By now, you should have been notified by EOEA about the size of your '9c cut that Governor Patrick ordered to balance the FY09 budget.** The cut –returning us to FY08 funding levels at \$6.50/elder– will be deducted from the second Formula Grant payment which should be arriving soon. This cut coupled with local aid cuts totaling nearly 10% has had a dramatic impact on local cities and towns. **We remind all COAs to send information about any program/ staff reductions and closures to our Save our Senior Centers Task Force** –see details below– We are collecting this info to paint a picture of how these cuts will affect seniors of our Commonwealth. In the last newsletter, we also detailed **House 1, Governor Patrick's ambitious fiscal plan for FY10.** If successful with his plan to reorganize and hike taxes, we could see the Formula Grant restored to \$7/elder/YEAR. The Governor's proposal now heads to the legislature who will design their own proposals for FY10.

**SIMPLE MESSAGE to convey to your Senators and Representatives: "We seek level funding for FY10 of \$8,615,068 in Line Item # 9110-9002 which would restore the two 9c cuts we absorbed during FY09 and return the Formula Grant to \$7/elder/YEAR."** **Please contact them now and let them know.**

**On the Federal level,** President Obama's **America's Recovery and Reinvestment Act** passed and there is a lot of good news for our Commonwealth. We received slightly more funding than Governor Patrick had planned on, when calculating House 1, but how that adjusts FY10 spending is still unclear. Details on the potential impact to program and services for older adults of our Commonwealth has been provided by AARP and can be found at our website [www.mcoaonline.com](http://www.mcoaonline.com)

**SAVE OUR Senior Centers Task Force:** Is actively tracking the impact the FY09 budget on senior centers and staffing. Please send updates and your concerns to Ruthann Dobek/Brookline [Ruthann\\_Dobek@town.brookline.ma.us](mailto:Ruthann_Dobek@town.brookline.ma.us) and Jayne Colino/ Newton [jcolino@newtonma.gov](mailto:jcolino@newtonma.gov)

# MCOA Legislative Update:



## PATRICK SEES UP TO \$9 BILLION FOR STATE FROM FEDERAL STIMULUS

By Jim O'Sullivan

STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

BOSTON, FEB. 18, 2009....Massachusetts could net up to \$9 billion in additional direct funding and receive more through competitive bidding and tax credits under the recovery package President Barack Obama signed Tuesday, but still faces budget cuts and a cloudy economic future, Gov. Deval Patrick said Wednesday.

While the influx of federal aid is likely to ameliorate short-term budget woes, by basing recurring expenditures on expiring revenues, the state faces future problems when the flow from Washington is choked off, budget analysts said.

"We will continue to face serious challenges to our operating budget and our overall economic health," Patrick said during a breakfast speech before the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce.

"Tough cuts, lean funding, difficult choices and a season of further reforms will remain the order of the day in state and local government," Patrick said.

Patrick ratcheted up the administration's estimate of the two-year budget gap, hiking the new projection to \$6.5 billion, a full half-billion above the previous level. The governor said the federal stimulus will account for one-fifth of the requisite solution.

The stimulus cash will not replenish the state's stabilization fund, slated to end the next fiscal year at \$888 million under Patrick's proposed budget.

"It doesn't work that way. You can't," Patrick told reporters after his speech, pointing out that federal assistance could lessen the budget's reliance on reserves. "Certainly, I think that's a good use."

Patrick said the state would receive between \$6 billion and \$9 billion from the stimulus law. Much of the money will be funneled directly to municipalities, and, "overwhelmingly" the cash is marked for "specific purposes," Patrick said. A close ally of Obama's, Patrick was among several governors pushing for additional flexibility in the funding.

Roughly \$1 billion in infrastructure funds, including \$400 million in highway funding and over \$300 million in transit funding, double the state's current allocation, will allow for "maintenance and modest expansion projects," Patrick said. More than \$800 million in federal aid will flow to public education, Patrick said, with school districts in low-income communities eligible for roughly \$200 million more. Special education will see an additional \$250 million, he said.

Patrick factored roughly \$1.2 billion in anticipated federal Medicaid assistance into his state budgets for the current fiscal year and fiscal 2010, but said Washington would boost those levels significantly: "It appears that over the next couple of years, we will receive about twice what we budgeted."

The Commonwealth is eligible for roughly \$60 million that would "help restart" about 31 affordable housing projects, according to Patrick. He said the state would net nearly \$30 million for community and economic development initiatives including housing and services. Roughly \$45 million is set aside for homelessness prevention.

Patrick aides said it was unclear how much money in competitive grants the state should expect. "A couple billion more is not out of the question ... if you factor in tax cuts and other incentives," said budget office spokeswoman Cyndi Roy.

Offsetting plunging tax receipts with outside aid will prop up the state budget in the years when the spigot is open, but unless revenues recover their brisk pace of growth, the sudden evaporation of the federal dollars could have severe implications in the long term, analysts said.

"The good news is there's some money for fiscal '11, the bad news is that there would suddenly be a huge hole for fiscal '12, which would be the fourth year of the economic crisis," said Michael Widmer, president of the right-leaning Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation.

"Given the enormity of the recession and the fact that very few people if any are predicting any type of rapid recovery when and if we reach the bottom, I think we've got to see this surely as at least a four-year fiscal crisis. We need some reserves for fiscal '12," Widmer said.

"The more you build in, the bigger the fall," Widmer said. "It just postpones the day of reckoning unless there's a multi-year strategy. It's difficult for the administration and the Legislature because the pressure to reduce the cuts is enormous. And these are major cuts."

Noah Berger, executive director of the left-leaning Mass. Budget and Policy Center, said the state has encountered two types of deficits: one marbled in through years of budget compromises, and the other created by the broader recession.

"The point of this money is to address the cyclical problem by using this to avoid some cuts that would otherwise have to be made.

"It should only be part of the solution," Berger said of the federal infusion. "They may very well need to do revenue solutions and spending solutions in addition to the federal money, but we should use the federal money we're receiving in a responsible way. It's not going to solve all the short-term problems or any of the long-term problems, but it's definitely a part of the solution."

If the state's expenditures are targeted well and prompt growth, Patrick aides said, revenues could recover sufficiently to plug the holes left by withdrawn assistance from Washington.

"The point here is that by investing this money you're going to create jobs and spur economic developments so that we have revenues to continue making investments after the stimulus has been spent," Roy said.

Patrick last week appointed an overseer of the federal infrastructure funds, real estate developer Jeffrey Simon, and municipalities have submitted lengthy wish lists for local projects.

During an appearance on a WTKK talk show with host Jim Braude, Patrick told a caller asking about the labor policies governing how the federal stimulus is spent that project labor agreements, pre-hire collective bargaining arrangements, would not blanket the expenditures.

The construction industry has been hit hard by the recession and both union and non-union companies are already eyeing the many projects that will be launched by the federal funds.

Patrick's emergency plan to close a \$1.1 billion hole in this year's budget – through a blend of federal funds, roughly \$200 million in cuts, \$327 million in reserve draw-downs, and new taxes – remains stalled in the House Ways and Means Committee, where new chairman Rep. Charley Murphy (D-Burlington) has begun hiring staff.

# MCOA Legislative Update: continued

## THE LINEUP: LEGISLATIVE LEADERS, COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2009-2010 SESSION

### SENATE LEADERSHIP

President: Therese Murray  
Majority Leader: Frederick Berry  
Assistant Majority Leader: Joan Menard  
Majority Whip: Marian Walsh  
Assistant Majority Whip: Steven Tolman  
Minority Leader: Richard Tisei - R  
Assistant Minority Leader: Bruce Tarr - R  
Minority Whip: Robert Hedlund - R  
Assistant Minority Whip: Scott Brown - R

### HOUSE LEADERSHIP

Speaker Robert DeLeo  
Majority Leader: James Vallee  
Speaker Pro Tempore: Thomas Petrolati  
Assistant Majority Leader: Ronald Mariano  
Second Assistant Majority Leader: Patricia Haddad  
Minority Leader: Brad Jones  
Assistant Minority Leader: George Peterson  
Minority Whip: Brad Hill  
Assistant Minority Whip: Elizabeth Poirier

### Senate Ways and Means

Chair: Sen. Steven Panagiotakos  
Vice-chair: Sen. Stephen Brewer  
Asst Vice-chair: Sen. Harriette  
Chandler  
Sen. Steven Baddour  
Sen. Cynthia Creem  
Sen. Benjamin Downing  
Sen. Susan Fargo  
Sen. Jack Hart  
Sen. Thomas Kennedy  
Sen. Richard Moore  
Sen. Michael Morrissey  
Sen. Marc Pacheco  
Sen. Karen Spilka  
Sen. Brian Joyce  
Sen. Susan Tucker  
Sen. Michael Knapik - R  
Sen. Bruce Tarr – R

### House Ways and Means

Chair: Rep. Charley Murphy  
Vice-chair: Rep. Barbara L'Italien  
Asst vice-chair: Rep. Stephen Kulik  
Rep. Angelo M. Scaccia  
Rep. Gloria L. Fox  
Rep. Robert M. Koczera  
Rep. Christine E. Canavan  
Rep. James Fagan  
Rep. John F. Quinn  
Rep. Colleen M. Garry  
Rep. Geraldine Creedon  
Rep. Michael J. Rodrigues  
Rep. Ruth B. Balsler  
Rep. Walter F. Timilty  
Rep. Michael F. Kane  
Rep. Christopher J. Donelan  
Rep. William Lantigua  
Rep. Michael F. Rush  
Rep. Joseph R. Driscoll  
Rep. Denis E. Guyer  
Rep. Carl M. Sciortino, Jr.  
Rep. Thomas Sannicandro  
Rep. James T. Welch  
Rep. Christopher N. Speranzo  
Rep. Robert L. Rice

Rep. Thomas P. Conroy  
Rep. Viriato "Vinny" deMacedo – R  
Rep. Robert Hargraves – R  
Rep. Jeffrey Perry – R  
Rep. Karyn Polito – R  
Rep. Todd Smola – R  
Rep. Daniel Webster – R

### Joint Committee on Elder Affairs

Co-chair: Sen. Patricia Jehlen  
Co-chair: Rep. Alice Wolf  
Vice-chair: Sen. Michael Moore  
Vice-chair: William Lantigua  
Rep. James R. Miceli  
Rep. Bruce J. Ayers  
Rep. Jennifer M. Callahan  
Rep. Sean Curran  
Rep. Willie Mae Allen  
Rep. John V. Fernandes  
Rep. Jonathan Hecht  
Rep. Richard Ross – R  
Rep. Elizabeth Poirier – R  
Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz  
Sen. James Eldridge  
Sen. Jennifer Flanagan  
Sen. Richard Tisei – R

### House Floor Division Chairs

First Division: Garrett Bradley  
Sec'd Division: Kathi-Anne Reinstein  
Third Division: Byron Rushing  
Fourth Division: Ellen Story

## **MCOANews: Resources You Can Use: Grant Awards**

MA DPH and MCOA announces the following communities have been awarded the My Life, My Health Partners grants **Halifax Westport, Harwich, East Longmeadow and a consortium led by the Holyoke COA**. These demonstration grants will field test the very effective program in a senior center environment. We hope to go eventually statewide with this valuable program. Stay tuned!

## **MCOANews: Resources You Can Use: MEMA Reps**

"I am very pleased to inform you that the 6 community representatives affiliated with the COA network who stepped forward to participate in MEMA's upcoming March 12-13 training (described below) will all receive an invitation to the training today. They include: Kathi Bailey (Clinton), Carol Grande (Gloucester), Doreen Noble (Lunenburg), Liz Pettis (Salisbury), Larry Holmberg (EMD in Chesterfield, referred by COA Director) and Robert Maselek (Chairman of Tolland COA). Their insights and feedback will be incredibly valuable to improving the training. And, *perhaps*, they could also become a new core group of advocates for the MCOA emergency management committee who can focus upon and speak out about EM issues for people needing assistance, and the vital role the COA network can play in planning, sheltering (for some), monitoring folks who self-shelter at home, preparedness and planning outreach and education, and in the maintenance of a first responders town registry of all individuals (all ages and conditions) who may need additional assistance responding to emergencies." Mary Kay Browne, EOEA

## **MCOANews: Resources You Can Use: MCOA Focal Points**

By now, you should have received the **Winter 2008-2009 edition of Focal Points**, which details our organization's activities over the last year.

- Note Municipal COAs: You will be receiving five copies of this magazine in the mail and we hope you circulate them to your mayor, city council, finance board and COA.
- Other members will receive one copy each but we ask you to pass it on when you have finished with it.
- In addition, we encourage everyone to mention that Focal Points can be found at [www.mcoasonline.com](http://www.mcoasonline.com). We seek to increase readership. **Our goal is to eventual go paperless to save money and reduce our carbon footprint. In addition, add [www.mcoasonline.com](http://www.mcoasonline.com) to your list of web favorites and visit us weekly.**

## **MCOANews: Resources You Can Use: MA DOR**

### **Thanks to MCOA Property Tax Task Force**

MASS DOR has added the new webpage for senior citizens - now it is easier to find the information online.

[http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=dormodulechunk&L=1&L0=Home&sid=Ador&b=terminalcontent&f=dor\\_help\\_Senior\\_retiree&csid=Ador](http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=dormodulechunk&L=1&L0=Home&sid=Ador&b=terminalcontent&f=dor_help_Senior_retiree&csid=Ador)

*Norma*

## **MCOANews: Resources You Can Use: Paul Lanzikos, NSES**

Here is a link to a helpful site for consumers about finding long-term care services:

<http://www.ahrq.gov/consumer/cc/cc020309.htm>

## **MCOANews: Public Computer and the Workforce Development/Civic Engagement Task Force**

We are developing a proposal as part of our larger efforts for NGA that would provide web links for local COAs and other community organizations that would assist older residents in finding employment, volunteer opportunities, lifelong learning seminars and screen for public benefits. We are hoping that all/most communities would have at their senior center or library a 'public computer' that could be utilized for this service. MCOA seeks feedback from its members on this proposal. Specifications about the type of computer will be articulated later but for now: "Is there a computer onsite that is for public use and has a high speed linked to the web?"

# MCOANews: Resources You Can Use:

## MADIL — A Search Index

### The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) Massachusetts Aging & Disabilities Information Locator Is Now Available for Your Use!

The Massachusetts Aging and Disabilities Information Locator (**MADIL**) is a public service of the Massachusetts Office of Health and Human Services. Available at <http://mass.gov/madil>, MADIL is an online, user-friendly tool designed to help you find information on services and programs in Massachusetts that support elders and people with disabilities. By using the search features of MADIL, users can simultaneously search the resources on three state-funded, aging and disabilities Websites:

- <http://www.disabilityinfo.org>, New England INDEX and the MNIP
- <http://www.800ageinfo.com>, Executive Office of Elder Affairs and Mass Home Care
- <http://www.MassAccessHousingRegistry.org>, Citizens' Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA)

MADIL also includes Quick Guides to major need areas including: A Person to Talk to; Emergency Information; Employment; Energy; Finances; Food and Nutrition; Health; Help for People Living at Home; Housing and Related Services; State Agencies; Transportation; Get Stuff. MADIL meets the state and federal requirements for accessibility to people with disabilities.



For more info go to <http://www.mass-service.org/>

### **Volunteer Week RFP**

MSA is pleased to release a Request for Proposals for its Volunteer Week Project Initiative.

Intent to Apply: February 27, 2009

Application due: March 10, 2009

### **AmeriCorps Planning Grants RFP**

MSA is pleased to release a Request for Proposals for its AmeriCorps Planning Grants Initiative.

Proposal Submission Deadline: March 6, 2009

### **Save-the-date**

Join us for the Statewide Community-Service Learning Conference on May 7, 2009 at the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester

### **Save-the-date**

Join us for the Statewide Conference on Volunteerism and Service, June 4, 2009 at the Best Western, Marlboro.

## **MCOANews: Resources You Can Use: at [www.mcoaonline.com](http://www.mcoaonline.com) New Information Posted**

- **A sample warrant article to add/change the property tax deferral program**
- **From AARP Foundation: A Resource Guide for Older Adults on Employment, Public Benefits & Personal Finances**
- **From AARP – Details on the impact that America's Recovery and Reinvestment Act will have on the Commonwealth's service delivery network for older adults.**

## **MCOANews: Resources You Can Use: from Emmett Schmarsow/EOEA**

As may be expected, the prospect of stimulus payments has received considerable interest from parties wishing to obtain fraudulent information from persons who may believe they are receiving money from the federal government. Therefore, please be advised of the following:

**Phishing scams are circulating via fraudulent U.S. Internal Revenue Service emails offering users stimulus package payments. These emails include text that attempts to convince users to follow a link to a website or to complete an attached document. The website and document request that the user provide personal information.**

### *What is a phishing attack?*

**Phishing is a form of social engineering. Phishing attacks use email or malicious web sites to solicit personal, often financial, information. Attackers may send email seemingly from a reputable credit card company or financial institution that requests account information, often suggesting that there is a problem. When users respond with the requested information, attackers can use it to gain access to the accounts.**

**You are encouraged to do the following to avoid being a victim:**

- Do not follow unsolicited web links received in email messages.
- Be suspicious of unsolicited phone calls, visits, or email messages from individuals asking about employees or other internal information. If an unknown individual claims to be from a legitimate organization, try to verify his or her identity directly with the company.
- Do not provide personal information or information about your organization, including its structure or networks, unless you are certain of a person's authority to have the information.
- Do not respond to email solicitations for personal information. This includes following links sent in email.
- Do not send sensitive information over the Internet before checking a web site's security.
- Pay attention to the URL of a web site. Malicious web sites may look identical to a legitimate site, but the URL may use a variation in spelling or a different domain (e.g., **.com** vs. **.net**).
- **If you are unsure whether an email request is legitimate, try to verify it by contacting the company directly. Do not use contact information provided on a web site connected to the request; instead, check previous statements for contact information.**
- Information about known phishing attacks is also available online from groups such as the Anti-Phishing Working Group ([http://www.antiphishing.org/phishing\\_archive.html](http://www.antiphishing.org/phishing_archive.html)).
- Install and maintain anti-virus software, firewalls, and email filters to reduce some of this traffic

## **MCOA Briefs: Job Opportunities**

Senior Services Outreach Worker: The City of Newton, MA, Department of Senior Services (Council on Aging Senior Center), is looking for a full-time outreach worker to assess and facilitate connections to services and programs for senior residents of Newton who may be un-served or under-served. The individual in this position will also monitor changes in the situation of seniors and provide indicated follow up and assistance. This position requires a BSW or equivalent and 1 - 3 years experience in elder services. A valid Massachusetts driver's license is required. Salary: \$38,000-\$43,000 plus excellent benefits.

To Apply: please send resumes by email (preferred) to: [resumes@newtonma.gov](mailto:resumes@newtonma.gov) with the job title in the subject line. Fax: (617) 796-1272.

Mail: Human Resources, 1000 Commonwealth Ave, Newton, MA 02459.

# MCOANews: Resources You ~~Can~~ Should Use:



## EXPERTS WARN OF INCREASED SUICIDE RISK AS ECONOMY WORSENS

By Kyle Cheney  
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, FEB. 9, 2009....As Massachusetts descends further into recession, the risk of suicide for the struggling and depressed is increasing, advocates for mental health services said Monday.

“Almost every other day I open the paper and there’s another story about some other stressed person who’s either being foreclosed on or has lost their job,” said Ellen Connorton, policy chair of the Massachusetts Coalition for Suicide Prevention.

In addition, an influx of returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan, many with diagnosed mental disorders, are straining services, advocates say.

Although the data is not in yet on the effect of the current downturn, Connorton added, “We know that suicide went up during the Depression.”

Advocates for suicide prevention strived to stay positive Monday at the State House, in the face of the governor’s wrenching decision to cut prevention programs for the increasingly at-risk population. Patrick lopped off 13 percent of the state’s \$4.8 million suicide prevention account in October to help close a \$1.4 billion budget gap, one of many health and human services spending reductions he authorized.

In his fiscal 2010 budget proposal, Patrick collapsed the suicide prevention account into a \$53 million “health promotion, violence prevention and workforce expansion” line item and a \$94 million health information technology line item, although neither specify an amount to be used for suicide prevention.

“Public health funding, like virtually every other service in state government, is feeling the impact of these tough economic times,” a Patrick administration public health spokesman said. “Many programs, even incredibly important programs like suicide prevention will be affected. We will do everything we can to minimize the impact of these difficult cuts.”

Supporters of prevention services honored lawmakers and advocacy groups at a Great Hall ceremony for their recent work to prevent suicide.

Among the speakers was Deborah DiMasi, wife of the recently resigned House speaker. Deborah DiMasi’s brother took his life in 2006 and she has since become a vocal advocate for suicide prevention.

Lawmakers with an eye on public health issues are grappling with the greater need for services as state tax revenues continue to dwindle.

“The economy and people losing their jobs and the stress that’s being created in families I’m sure puts the risk of suicide on the increase,” said Rep. Ruth Balsler, a clinical psychologist who last session co-chaired the Legislature’s Mental Health and Substance Abuse Committee.

Connorton said funding to boost outreach to Western Massachusetts veterans was cut, despite a heavy concentration of returning soldiers there.

Supporters of suicide prevention services say suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in the United States, and the third leading cause of death among people between 10 and 24 years old.

Last year, lawmakers passed a bill to increase screening for pediatric mental health problems and ensure that children move into community care when they no longer require institutionalization. The law was passed to honor Yolanda Torres, who took her life months after testifying before the Legislature on behalf of children’s mental health services.

Asked for examples of innovative suicide prevention policy, Balsler pointed to a Framingham Police jail diversion program, an honoree at the morning event.

“Mental health professionals ride in cruisers with police professionals,” she said, particularly on calls for public nuisances or disorderly conduct, an indication that an offender may have a mental disorder. “Instead of locking someone like that up, refer them to services.”

Balsler said the contact between mental health professionals and police has helped the police learn prevention skills, including one instance when a rookie officer “talked down someone who was on a bridge.”

## **MCOANews: Resources You Can Use: from the Attorney General's Office**

This is the information that I would like to have posted at local senior centers. Please let me know if there is anything else you will need from me. Do you have an estimate of when this information would be posted? Thanks, Alexis Rufo, Manager, Elder Inquiry & Assistance Community Information & Education Division, Office of Attorney General Martha Coakley, 1 Ashburton Place, Boston, Massachusetts 02108 617-963-2478 (direct dial)

### **Office of the Attorney General Seeks Volunteers in the Boston Metro Area**

The Elder Hotline, located within the Public Inquiry and Assistance Center, provides a central place where senior citizens and their families may receive information, referral and mediation services. The Hotline is staffed by employees and volunteers who answer phone calls and assist in mediating complaints with the supervision of office staff. Volunteers carry a varied caseload that may include complaints related to retail stores, debt and debt collection, home improvement contractors, telemarketing, lottery scams, and more. The Office welcomes and actively recruits members of the elder community to serve as volunteers to assist us with this important task.

Applicants should be familiar with issues of concern to seniors and their families. Clear and courteous communication skills are required. Basic computer skills and the ability to maintain clear records are necessary.

Time Requirement: Volunteers are expected to work a minimum of two days each week. Travel to the Boston office is required.

If you are interested in applying, please submit a cover letter indicating your interest and availability to:

**Elder Hotline Coordinator  
Public Inquiry and Assistance Center  
Office of the Attorney General  
One Ashburton Place  
Boston, MA 02108**

Interested parties seeking additional information about the Elder Hotline may contact the Manager of Elder Assistance at (617) 963-2478

### **MCOA Briefs: NCOA/ASA Las Vegas Conference**

Please contact Jayne Colino at [jcolino@newtonma.gov](mailto:jcolino@newtonma.gov) to let her know if you are attending the ASA/NCOA Conference in March. During last year's conference, a dinner was organized for MCOA members and other Mass. attendees. If you are attending, please let her know if you would be interested in getting together for dinner. Thank- you Jayne Colino Director, Department of Senior Services, City of Newton, 345 Walnut Street, Newtonville MA, 02460. Tel: 617-796-1671(direct line) 617-969-9560 (fax) [jcolino@newtonma.gov](mailto:jcolino@newtonma.gov) [www.newtonseniors.org](http://www.newtonseniors.org)

### **MCOA Briefs: Transitions- Bereavement**

**MCOA wishes to express our condolences to the following members of our greater community who have suffered a loss of a loved one. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families.**

- **Bernie Huck/** Seekonk COA has lost her son.
- **Amy Waters/** Worcester EOEAs lost her mother.

## MCOA Briefs: Transitions- Recovering

- **Scott Plumb** Vice President of Massachusetts Senior Care Association and former President of MCOA is recovering from a fall that has left him with a full leg cast. Fortunately, Scott has returned part time to work and we wish him a speedy recovery.
- MCOA Property Tax Task Force Member **Laura Russell** has broken her elbow and is home recovering. Send get-well cards to 615 Massapoag Ave MA 02067

## MCOA Briefs: Transitions-

- **Frances Rigol of Saugus** has announced that she is leaving her position as Executive Director at the end of the month; though she is not ready to retire and Frances would be interested in any part time elder related opportunities. Joanne Olsen will be the interim director until someone is hired.
- **Lynn Brown-Zounes** has resigned as the Executive Director of the Lowell Senior Center, effective Friday, February 20, 2009. "As you know my primary interest is in the field of aging. Therefore, I have accepted the opportunity to own and operate my own Adult Day Health Center in the City of Lowell. Home Away from Home will be located on Industrial Avenue in Lowell and should be open on or about April 1, 2009. Although I am eager to accept the challenges in this new venture, I have mixed emotions about leaving the senior center. You have all treated me with respect and have taught me many important life skills. I won't forget the friendship and professional growth I have experienced as a senior center director in the city of Lowell."

<u>Departed Director</u>	<u>COA</u>	<u>New Director</u>
Jane Meegan	Boylston	Dennis Goguen
Lauren McSweeney	Lexington	Charlotte Rodgers
Denis Coleman	Peabody	Carolyn Wynn
Harold Smith	Shirley	John Oelfke
Debbie Bell	Wareham	Marcia Griswold
Rachelle S. Cyr	Oxford	Stacy Barr
Millie Misley	Sandisfield	Mary Slater

## MCOA Briefs: Member Request

**Data Collection:** I am looking into purchasing software for "annual statistics, reports, etc." and would appreciate any feedback from fellow COA directors who are using either the "My Senior Center" or "Servtracker" programs. Could you please send an e-mail to the COAs. Many thanks! Joanne Joanne Collins Director, Woburn Council on Aging, Woburn Senior Center, 144 School Street, Woburn, MA 01801 Phone: (781)-897-5961 Fax: (781)-937-8259 E-mail: jcollins@cityofwoburn.com

**Senior Center Construction:** I am looking to visit senior centers with a **square footage of ABOUT 7,000 feet**, or anywhere near that size. If anyone with a senior center with about that square footage could email me and I will contact them to set up an appointment for a visit I would appreciate it. Thanks so much.  
Susan Schwager, Marion, MA. 508 748-3570 sschwager@marionma.gov

