

MCOA News

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Notes from the Executive Director: Late January/Early February 2009

Please Circulate to Your Staff

- **Focal Points** is now on-line and in the mail! Instructions for distribution of the five copies that each COA will receive can be found on page 20 below.

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:

- **2009 Planning Calendar-** transfer these dates to your new Planner to avoid conflicts
- **Legislative Updates:** Festa Gone, 9c cuts, Possible Reorg, and FY10 Budget
- **Resources from EOHHS** including an FY10 Update on Community First and introductory fact sheets on ARDCs and MADIL
- **Year End Review from Mass Senior Action**
- **Resources You Can Use and Educational Opportunities**
- **Registration form for February 20th Membership Meeting**

Membership Meeting: February 20, 2009 at the Milford COA

We will have a lot to talk about at the next membership meeting including recent changes at EOEA, the 9c cuts and the proposed FY10 campaign. **This is an important meeting. Registration form enclosed.**

In addition, we will feature two program topics

- **ADRCs: Taking Some of the Alphabet Out of the Soup.**
This presentation on Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC's) is a sequel to introductory remarks made by Elder Affairs Assistant Secretary Ruth Palombo at the MCOA annual conference. Mike Oliver, statewide ADRC coordinator, will talk about the nuts and bolts of ADRCs: clarifying their mission, history, current status, relationships with COAs and future aspirations.
- **Emerging Trends in Legal Needs of Elders ----- How Best to Respond**
This will be an interactive discussion session with an overview presentation of some of the most pressing legal issues affecting elders and the available resources for response. Discussion topics will include recent developments in guardianship practice, the Executive Office of Elder Affairs Protective Service Program, and the pros and cons of reverse mortgages. Active participation of the audience is encouraged on the topics presented as well as any other legal issues related to elders that are problematic. This is the audience's opportunity to educate Elder Affairs staff about the needs in this area.

After lunch the Workforce Development / Civic Engagement Task Force will meet to continue the discussion we began at the December 5th membership Meeting. All are welcome to join!

Public Computer: On the topic of 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 locals 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?"

MCOA Legislative Update:

Since we all returned from the winter holiday break, Beacon Hill has been busy. We lost a good friend when Secretary **Mike Festa** left EOEA, but a strong ally is now Speaker of the House – **Robert DeLeo**. A proposal to **reorganize EOHHS** was taken off the fast track but it remains a top priority of the Administration. COAs face a double whammy with mid year ‘9c’ cuts to our **Formula Grants (reduced to \$6.50/elder/YEAR) and a 9.8% cut to local aid** (side note: at least one senior center has already announced it will now have to close-more are expected). **However, there is good news** – if the entire Governor’s proposals to increase revenues pass including President Obama’s Stimulus package; there is a possibility that the formula grant can be restored in **FY10 to \$7/elder/YEAR**.

The following pages detail some of these events, but MCOA encourages members to attend the February 20th Membership Meeting for more specifics and to plan our next steps. (See enclosed registration form)

The specifics on what the Governor on January 28th: More details at www.mass.gov

FY09 More 9c cuts:

- Line Items #9110- 9002 cut by \$1,071,604 = 12.439% -this includes previous 9c reduction-October- This is approximately our FY08 level minus the SHINE \$
- Local Aide cut 9.8%
- Minor reductions totaling about \$600,000 to other EOEA line items- remember they all had already taken heavy hits in October
- This translates to \$6.50 formula grant –down from \$7; second payment will reflect lower amount annualized
- No new Incentive Grants
- Reduction in available funds for existing Incentive Grants (MCOA, consortia, transportation, etc) from approximately \$305,000 to \$184,000 and
- LGBT set to get \$80,000 because it was an earmark.

FY10 Governor’s Proposal- House 1: This is contingent

1. on the House and Senate concurring and
 2. on the hope the economy recovers and
 3. on the hope the Governor’s revenue proposals (meal tax, etc) pass and
 4. on the hope that the federal government include monies to help states (currently that relief is in Obama’s proposal).
- **Line Item #9110-9002 COAs restored to \$8,615,068 = \$7/elder with \$700,000 Incentive funding**
 - No other major cuts to EOEA line items – ASAP line item gets a 2% increase over FY09 post 9c budget- this translates they are still down 2%+
 - Line items consolidated from 11+ to six. COAs retain separate line item #9110-9002
 - All ASAP/HCC line items consolidated into one (Mass Home Care supports)
 - All Housing line items consolidated into one –congregate, supportive housing, homeless. (Mass Home Care Supports)
 - No change for Rx but funding reflects new lower amount needed since eligibility/program overall that kicked in January 1st 2009- savings used to mitigate any reductions and provide restoration to us & others.
 - EOEA Admin line item reduced because all IT costs were removed and consolidated into one EOHHS line item.
 - According to EOEA all earmarks were removed but LGBT funding is implied in Line Item 9110-9002 at \$80,000

Article 87 Status: Still Pending –Administration Open to Dialogue

“We have decided not to include this proposal in the Article 87 that will be filed today. We continue to believe that this proposal has merit and would like to work with you to accomplish this change. I propose that we arrange a meeting for the coming weeks to further discuss how we can move forward together on this proposal and to further discuss ideas of interest to you. “David Martin, EOHHS

MCOA Legislative Update: continued

Excerpts:

Boston Globe, January 31, 2009

Festa, O'Connell resign their posts in governor's Cabinet. Bialecki is new head of housing, development

By Matt Viser and Kay Lazar, Globe Staff | January 31, 2009

Two of Governor Deval Patrick's Cabinet secretaries resigned yesterday, continuing his administration's biggest shake-up since the first few months in office...

Festa's departure comes as seniors groups blast the administration for, they say, diminishing its commitment to seniors. Facing stiff opposition from advocates, the governor this week postponed a plan to shift a wide range of services and programs for the elderly out of Festa's office. Critics said the shift would risk letting elderly residents fall between bureaucratic cracks.

Saying they are "deeply disturbed" by Festa's departure, a dozen groups led by AARP Massachusetts sent a strongly worded letter to Patrick yesterday stating that they are "perplexed as to why the Executive Office of Elder Affairs is being dramatically weakened at a time when 25 percent of the state's households include at least someone age 65 or older."

Key programs in the office have been cut substantially, including one that helps defray prescription costs for tens of thousands of seniors, but "if it wasn't for [Festa's] leadership, it would have been so much worse,"

AARP Massachusetts director Deborah Banda said in an interview.

"He brought an energy to that office," Banda said. "He was out in the community . . . and he made sure that the people who relied on these services had a voice at the table."

Juan Martinez, a spokesman for Health and Human Services, which oversees elder affairs, said Festa's departure does not signal a diminished interest in seniors.

"We've always been committed and have spent a great deal of attention on elder issues and that's not going to change," he said.

Festa, 54, a trial lawyer and former state representative from Melrose who was appointed secretary in October 2007, said in a phone interview that he felt lucky and blessed to have had the position.

"I very much respect and appreciate what the governor has done for seniors and have tried, throughout, to do the best I can for him and for seniors," he said.

Festa declined to say whether he was asked to resign. He said he is considering "several opportunities" and hoped to continue working with elders, but said he has not made any decisions on his future.

Ellie Shea-Delaney, who served as interim secretary prior to Festa's appointment, will assume that role again until a new secretary is appointed, according to the administration.

MCOA Legislative Update: continued

Excerpts from Governor Patrick's Emergency Recovery Plan from www.mass.gov

January 28, 2009 -- Amid a deep and unprecedented national recession, Governor Deval Patrick submitted his Fiscal Year 2010 budget proposal and an emergency plan for closing a \$1.1 billion budget gap in the current fiscal year. The Patrick-Murray Administration's Emergency Recovery Plan is a multi-pronged strategy, including a FY2009 budget solve, the FY2010 budget, and a number of cost-saving reforms and proposals, all of which will help stabilize and position the Commonwealth for long-term economic success. Video and a full transcript will be available soon.

The Patrick-Murray Administration Emergency Recovery Plan

An Unprecedented Recession

The unprecedented nationwide recession has complicated an already difficult budget process, with a second \$1 billion budget gap to fill in FY 2009 and further challenges ahead. Over the last five months, the Administration has had to solve a budget deficit of approximately \$6 billion from fiscal year 2009 and fiscal year 2010.

The Emergency Recovery Plan

To address these shortfalls, Governor Patrick has put forward a multi-pronged solution including (1) a fix to the FY09 budget gap, (2) filing the new FY10 budget, (3) proposing a series of cost-savings reforms for state and local government, and (4) identifying new revenue sources.

FY09 FIX: In October, the Administration solved a \$1.4 billion budget gap with spending controls, a draw on reserves, cuts and other reforms. To close an additional \$1.1 billion gap, the Governor is making an additional \$191 million in 9C cuts, filing an Emergency Recovery Bill that includes \$68 million in additional revenues and \$327 million in Rainy Day Funds, and using \$533 million in anticipated federal Medicaid funds. Learn more at www.mass.gov/gaa

FY10 BUDGET PROPOSAL: The FY10 budget proposal is lean, but reflects a commitment to maintaining core services. It is in line Governor Patrick's change agenda and is focused on priorities in education, public safety, health care and employment. Additional cuts are also necessary including:

- \$220 million, or a 4.2 percent reduction, in aid to cities and towns, accounting for adoption of a 1 percent increase in the statewide meals and hotel taxes. Without the new revenues, the cut would be \$375 million, or a 7 percent, reduction.
- Learn more about how Governor Patrick is [protecting Local Aid](#).
- View the Governor's FY 2010 budget recommendation at www.mass.gov/budget/governor

MCOA Legislative Update: continued — Emergency Recovery Plan

OPPORTUNITY FOR REFORMS: With great challenges also come great opportunity, and the Governor has put forward a number of cost-savings proposals at the state and local level including:

- Reform the way the state accounts for capital gains tax revenues to insulate the budget from the state’s most volatile revenue source.
- Consolidating agencies and operations around homelessness services, information technology, energy management and county sheriff departments.
- Filing a second Municipal Partnership Act bill with reform tools to help communities better manage their bottom lines that encourage regionalization of services and enrollment into the state’s Group Insurance Commission (GIC) to contain health care costs.
- Re-introducing a plan to save \$60 million by reforming state employee health insurance and salary structure.

NEW REVENUE SOURCES: Reforms will help save the Commonwealth money, but they aren’t enough to close the budget gap. The Administration has proposed a series of new revenue proposals to help protect key priorities and provide a more stable and sustainable funding base in the long-term. These proposals include:

- Meals and Hotel Taxes: \$150 million from a 1-cent statewide increase dedicated to reducing local aid cuts; and \$200 million for an additional 1-cent increase at local option.
- Commonwealth Wellness Fund: \$121.5 million from eliminating sales tax exemption on alcohol, candy and sweetened beverages dedicated to public health programs.
- Bottle Bill: \$20 million from expanding the 5-cent recycle deposit to include plain and flavored water, coffee-based drinks, juices and sports drinks dedicated largely to recycling and water and sewer rate relief.
- RMV fees: \$74.5 million from updated and consolidated Registry of Motor Vehicle (RMV) fees dedicated to the state Highway Fund.

MCOA Legislative Update: continued Governor’s FY09 ‘9c’ Cuts Department of Elder Affairs: FY09

Additional 9c cuts January 28, 2009

<i>ACCOUNT</i>	<i>Description</i>	FY2009 GAA	FY2009 9C Cuts
9110-9002	Grants to Councils on Aging For the local services program for grants to the councils on aging and for grants to or contracts with non-public entities which are consortia or associations of councils on aging; provided, that notwithstanding the foregoing, all monies appropriated in this item shall be expended in accordance with the distribution schedules for formula and incentive grants established by the secretary; provided further, that not less than \$80,000 shall be provided to the LGBT Aging Project; and provided further, that such distribution schedules shall be submitted to the house and senate committees on ways and means	8,615,068	-1,071,644

9C Explanation: Reduces spending that is not affordable given the current revenue estimate.

MCOA Legislative Update: continued

Department of Elder Affairs: FY10

Fiscal Year 2010 Resource Summary (\$000)

<i>DEPARTMENT</i>	FY 2010 Budgetary Recommendations	FY 2010 Federal, Trust, and ISF	FY 2010 Total Spending	FY 2010 Budgetary Non-Tax Revenue
Department of Elder Affairs	277,548	33,464	311,012	1,214,437

MCOA Note: Reduced Number of Line Items but COA remains 'independent'. *Thanks!*

account	description	amount
DEPARTMENT OF ELDER AFFAIRS		311,012,364
Budgetary Direct Appropriations		277,548,014
<u>9110-0100</u>	DEPARTMENT OF ELDER AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION	2,143,395
<u>9110-1455</u>	PRESCRIPTION ADVANTAGE	45,000,000
<u>9110-1555</u>	ELDER POS HOME CARE SERVICES	199,176,025
<u>9110-1636</u>	ELDER PROTECTIVE SERVICES	16,252,499
<u>9110-1800</u>	ELDER HOUSING PROGRAMS	6,361,027
<u>9110-9002</u>	GRANTS TO COUNCILS ON AGING	8,615,068

account	description	amount
Federal Grant Spending		33,384,350
9110-1074	OLDER AMERICANS ACT - TITLE III AND TITLE VII	9,467,410
9110-1077	NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM	3,544,442
9110-1095	HEALTH INFORMATION COUNSELING AND ASSISTANCE	710,010
9110-1150	EMPOWERING OLDER PEOPLE	70,743
9110-1173	OLDER AMERICANS ACT - TITLE III NUTRITION PROGRAM	14,289,338
9110-1174	NUTRITION SERVICES INCENTIVE PROGRAM	3,155,164
9110-1178	COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM	1,931,361
9110-1179	PERFORMANCE OUTCOME MEASURES PROJECT	28,100
9110-2760	NEW ENGLAND MASSACHUSETTS AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER	187,782

account	description	amount
Trust and Other Spending		80,000
9110-1155	NCOA SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS EXPENDABLE TRUST	80,000

MCOA Legislative Update: continued

FY10

9110-9002 - Grants to Councils on Aging

MCOA Note: Governor restores funding to original FY09 levels. Thanks again –We sincerely appreciate this!

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>FY2009 GAA</u>	<u>FY2010 House 1</u>
9110-9002	Grants to Councils on Aging For grants to the councils on aging and for grants to or contracts with non-public entities which are consortia or associations of councils on aging	8,615,068	8,615,068

MCOA Legislative Update: So What Does This All Mean?

From: Schmarsow, Emmett (ELD) [mailto:Emmett.Schmarsow@state.ma.us]

Sent: Monday, February 02, 2009 4:13 PM

Subject: Update on Formula Grants/Payments, FY2009

Dear Colleagues,

We began Fiscal Year 2009 by issuing all municipal Councils on Aging a payment of one-half of what each agency was slated to receive based on the budget passed by the legislature and signed by the governor last July. When the (first) "9C" cuts occurred in October, the COA line item decreased less than 3% (a smaller reduction than virtually every other Elder Affairs line item). Formula Grants were untouched, while the Service Incentive (competitive) pool was reduced from \$700,000 to about \$500,000, with no affect on the Formula Grant.

The second round of "9C" cuts in January left us with few options. Elder Affairs reduced Formula Grants to \$6.50/elder, level with what was awarded in FY08 (not the \$7.00/elder COAs you anticipated). The Service Incentive Grant pool was further reduced.

We are now creating new contracts to reflect this final allocation and anticipate they will be issued next week, if not sooner. We can not issue new payments until the contracts are issued by this office, countersigned by your appropriate municipal authority (NOT the COA), returned to this office and entered into the state's accounting system. This takes time. Please know that the money IS available.

COAs should use last year's grant award as the final amount to be expected this year. There is a possibility, yet unknown, of keeping minimum grants intact at \$3500. You do not need to submit a revised budget unless you anticipate expenditures not identified in your original FY2009 application.

Lastly, some comments about FY2010. The COA line item (#9110-9002) in the FY2010 Governor's budget (*a/k/a "House 1"*) will use the allocation that was passed by the legislature/governor last July. *House 1* is usually identical to the *final* approved level of the previous year. However, the Governor's FY2010 House 1 budget will start with the amount **before** the 9C cuts occurred. This should help the COA line item by specifying an increase at the beginning of the legislative process, not at the end.

I've tried to make this explanation as clear as possible. If you have any questions regarding this email, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you. *Emmett H. Schmarsow* Program Manager for Councils on Aging and Senior Centers Executive Office of Elder Affairs 1 Ashburton Place, 5th Fl., Boston, MA 02108 (800) 698-9723 (617) 222-7471 (617) 727-9368 (fax) Emmett.Schmarsow@state.ma.us

MCOA Legislative Update: Excerpts from State House News

STUNG BY CAP GAINS, JANUARY TAX COLLECTIONS DOWN \$409 MILLION

The Department of Revenue last month collected 14 percent less in taxes than in January 2008, as the category of collections that includes capital gains tax receipts was off by nearly 36 percent for the month. Income tax collections for the month were down 17.4 percent and sales and use taxes were off 8.3 percent. Despite the drop-off, collections for the month beat revised budget benchmarks by \$25 million. Seven months into the fiscal year, state tax collections are down 4.2 percent, or \$480 million. The big reduction in capital gains tax receipts was expected due to the downturns in the housing and stock markets, which have minimized gains on the sales of investments. In a statement, Revenue Commissioner Navjeet Bal said, "January's performance was in line with the revised forecasts for a sagging economy. Collections of virtually every tax type are running behind that of a year ago, but they are relatively close to the downwardly revised benchmarks.

GAO: MASS IN LINE FOR \$3 BILLION MEDICAID INFUSION

Massachusetts is in line for a \$3 billion infusion of Medicaid funds over the next nearly three years, should a federal stimulus bill under consideration in the Senate win approval. According to a U.S. Government Accountability Office letter on Wednesday to Sen. Max Baucus, US Senate Committee on Finance chairman, Massachusetts will receive between \$286 million and \$359 million in each of the next 11 quarters. The level of funding for the Bay State trails only New York's \$12.3 billion allocation, California's \$10.6 billion, Texas's \$5.5 billion, Pennsylvania's \$4.1 billion and Ohio's \$3.1 billion. Just behind Massachusetts are Illinois at \$2.8 billion, North Carolina's \$2.4 billion and Michigan at \$2.3 billion. The funds, if approved, would provide a boost to Massachusetts's budget at a time when falling revenues are taking their toll on health care programs and institutions. Boston Medical Center and advocates for people with disabilities have lashed out at the Patrick administration for midyear budget cuts that have affected programs and services. The federal dollars are aimed at so called "FMAP" programs such as food stamps and welfare. Gov. Deval Patrick last week proposed budget plans that call for the general use of \$1.24 billion in federal funds he anticipates from the stimulus bill. That plan requires legislative approval.

STIMULUS MEANS 83,000 JOBS FOR MASS., OBAMA SAYS

The economic stimulus plan, which is taking shape in the US Senate after clearing the House, would create or preserve 83,300 Bay State jobs over the next two years, more than 90 percent of them in the private sector, according to White House estimates. The bill would furnish an income tax cut of up to \$1,000 for 2.53 million workers, according to the Obama Administration, which released state-by-state numbers today as part of an offensive to build support for the bill. A new \$2,500 partially refundable tax credit for four years of college would help 71,000 Massachusetts families, and 503,000 workers who have lost their jobs in the recession would receive an additional \$100 per month, said the outline. Another 84,000 laid-off workers would see extended unemployment benefits. "At least" 167 schools in Massachusetts would receive modernization funds, the White House said. State policymakers have said they are relying heavily on the federal package to help stave off additional cuts to budgets for this fiscal year and the next. Patrick weaved \$533 million in anticipated federal aid into his \$1.1 billion midyear solution, and another \$711 million into his spending blueprint for next year. Patrick's midyear "emergency" plan to balance the budget is stalled in the House, which has yet to assign members to the committees that review bills.

-END-

2/04/2009

MCOA Legislative Update: Reminder

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 and Jayne Colino/Newton jcolino@newtonma.gov

Thank You for Supporting Mass Senior Action in 2008!

It's been a year for the record books...

Many members of the Massachusetts Senior Action Council tell us that today's economic turmoil and political developments bring back memories of the Great Depression. They recall hardship and sacrifice, but they also recall a great "coming together" when families and neighbors shared their tables and their homes to survive. The seeds of the "New Deal" were planted and some of our greatest social programs, including Social Security, were born.

The potential for CHANGE is all around us again today. This winter will be devastating for people already struggling to get by. Record numbers are applying for food stamps and fuel assistance. Many are losing their homes because they or their landlords are in foreclosure.

The need is greater than ever for a progressive grass roots group of seniors to champion the concerns of the vulnerable. As never before, Senior Action members are educating and galvanizing their peers across the Commonwealth about how to make change.

Throughout this fall Massachusetts Senior Action was a leader in registering and mobilizing new voters – among them seniors who had never voted or who had not gone to the ballot box in years! – and to convince the electorate to reject Question One. This dangerous proposal would have slashed funding for health care, housing and other necessities drastically. Members put in literally hundreds of hours of work going door-to-door, working the phones, and getting out the vote on Election Day.

Because of this tradition of deep grass roots engagement, Senior Action has had many significant victories over the past year. We hope that you'll read about them in the attached summary and be inspired. Then, we hope you also will "go deep" -- and make a generous donation.

This is a time for HOPE, a time that requires all of us to speak out, to reach out, and to advocate and work with policymakers more strategically than ever – a time ripe for CHANGE.

An energized Massachusetts Senior Action is doing a great deal with extraordinary "people power" but with a little resources. Won't you please join the effort with a contribution?

Thank you.

John Bennett

President

Massachusetts Senior Action Council Phone: (617) 442-3330 www.masssenioraction.org

Sue Kirby

Executive Director

Massachusetts Senior Action Council Key Achievements 2008

At Mass Senior Action, **collective action through the power of numbers gets results!** This year, we won important victories on **health care and affordable housing**.

Mass Senior Action's Campaign for High Quality, Affordable Health Care

- We fought Big Pharma's marketing machine and won. Those "free" gifts salesmen use to steer doctors towards higher priced drugs are now open to public scrutiny. A new law proposed by the Massachusetts Prescription Reform Coalition requires disclosure of gifts over \$50 to health care providers. The law also creates an Academic Detailing Program to counter corporate sales pitches with unbiased information.
- We protected Prescription Advantage. When Elder Affairs was asked to make cuts to senior programs because of a billion dollar shortfall this year, MSAC and other groups advocated against dropping coverage. As a result no one was cut from the program, maintaining Prescription Advantage as a program for all but the wealthiest seniors.
- We gave more seniors the freedom to choose between their own homes and nursing homes With Mass Senior Action's support, the Mass Home Care Association succeeded in maintaining funding for ECOP – the Enhanced Community Options Program. ECOP provides home care services for low-income seniors with too much income to qualify for Medicaid.

The Campaign to Save Affordable Housing

- We helped keep 340 seniors in their homes! Our members reached out to senior tenants in Lynn and Boston and helped them organize to keep their apartments affordable after the buildings' original mortgage agreements expire.
- We rallied, demonstrated and advocated on Beacon Hill, and, for the first time, the Senate passed a bill to stop the "expiring use" crisis by a unanimous vote. Although we didn't beat the clock in the House, we showed what senior action could do. We'll be back in January!

Fighting for Fairer Taxation

- We worked with the Coalition for Tax Fairness to close loopholes that let Massachusetts companies avoid paying taxes by hiding income in other states. This will raise the state's income by over \$300 million annually.
- We defeated Ballot Question 1. MSAC campaigned in the community, at senior centers, and door-to-door in elderly housing to defeat this binding referendum to end the state income tax by more than 3 to 1!

MCOA Resources You Can Use: From EOHHS

MassHealth

Overview

MassHealth Fact Sheet – FY10 H.1 Community First Initiatives Budget Statement



The Administration's long-term care policy is Community First, a commitment to ensuring that elders and people with disabilities have access to community-living opportunities and supports that address each individual's diverse needs, abilities and backgrounds. Demographic projections regarding expanding numbers of residents likely to be in need of long-term supports highlight the importance of this policy commitment.

MassHealth is embarking upon several initiatives to provide members with more choices for community-based services. In addition to beginning implementation of the Community First 1115 Demonstration waiver, MassHealth will implement a cash and counseling program for certain long-term care benefits to purchase their own community supports. Settlement of the *Rolland v. Romney* case will expand community care options for individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities, and settlement of the *Hutchinson v. Romney* case will expand important community alternatives for brain-injured adults and seniors.

FY 10 Policy Initiatives

Community First 1115 Demonstration - \$21M Investment

H.1 includes \$21M to begin offering new services under the new Community First (CF) 1115 waiver in FY10 (pending CMS approval). Implementation of the new program is targeted to first reach those members who do not currently have access to home- and community-based services and also to expand services modestly for a small group of people with some home- and community-based services now.

- Members currently enrolled in the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) 1915(c) waiver, administered by the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, will immediately be offered enrollment in the CF Waiver for access to expanded home and community based services, including behavioral health services. The TBI waiver will be discontinued once the Community First Waiver is implemented.
- CF Waiver transition capacity will also be opened for 500 MassHealth members with disabilities under age 60 who are residing in nursing facilities. These members will have access to case management and transition services to help them move from nursing facilities into the community. MassHealth will also open enrollment to individuals with disabilities under age 60 who are living in the community and who meet a nursing facility or specialty hospital level of care. These members will have access for the first time to the expanded array of services available under the CF Waiver.
- Individuals over the age of 60 who need a nursing facility level of care will continue to have access to home and community based services, including transition services, through the Frail Elder 1915(c) waiver, and an anticipated waiver amendment will include additional services in FY10.
- In FY11, individuals aged 60+, including members in the Frail Elder 1915(c) waiver, will begin enrollment in the more expansive CF Waiver.

Cash and Counseling Initiative

H.1 permits MassHealth to implement a "cash and counseling" program to allow interested consumers the flexibility to get a cash budget. The consumer may use the budget to make arrangements for their care that best fits their circumstances, needs, and preferences.

MADIL -- A Search Index

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

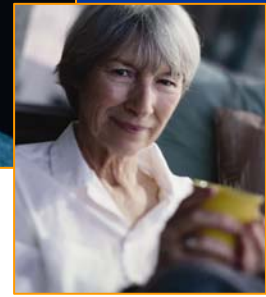
The Massachusetts Aging and Disabilities Information Locator (**MADIL**) is a public service of the Massachusetts Office of Health and Human Services. Available at <http://mass.gov/madil>, MADIL is an online, user-friendly tool designed to help you find information on services and programs in Massachusetts 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.

MASSACHUSETTS EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ELDER AFFAIRS

Promoting Your Independence



Aging and Disability Resource Consortia

What is an ADRC?

A partnership among ASAPs, ILCs and other agencies that creates a single, coordinated system of information and access for all persons seeking long term services and supports, regardless of age, disability or income

Who Does an ADRC Serve?

- *Persons age 60 and over*
- *All persons with disabilities age 14 and over*
- *Family members and caregivers*
- *Private pay consumers (e.g. persons not eligible for public programs or individuals planning for their future long term care needs)*

Consumer Advantages to an ADRC

- *Consumer will receive answer on the FIRST call!!*
- *No Wrong Door = No Wrong way to access services!*
- *All necessary referrals and coordination handled by trained and competent ADRC staff*

What are the Benefits of an ADRC?

- *Minimize consumer and provider confusion!!*
- *Reduce the number of calls a consumer has to make to get the information they need*
- *Help consumers get services faster and easier*
- *Enhance individual choice*
- *Support informed decision-making*
- *Increase the cost-effectiveness of the long-term supports system*
- *Reach under and un-served populations*

Key Services-what the ADRC can do for people

- *Information and Referral*
- *Options Counseling*
- *Peer Counseling*
- *Advocacy*
- *Crisis Intervention*
- *Intake, Assessment and Service Planning*
- *Entry into more than 40 long-term services and supports in the community*
- *Outreach & Education*
- *Benefits Counseling*
- *Employment Support*
- *Skills Training*
- *Eligibility Determination*

Massachusetts' ADRCs

*Berkshire County Cape Cod and the Islands Central Mass Greater Boston
Greater North Shore Merrimack Valley Metrowest Pioneer Valley South
Southeast Suffolk County*

For more information Mike Oliver, Statewide ADRC project Coordinator
E.O.E.A. 1 Ashburton Place Boston, MA 02108 Tel: 617-222-7473 Fax: 617-727-7750
TTY: 1-800-872-0166 Michael.Oliver@state.ma.us

MCOA 2009 Planning Calendar

UPCOMING Events: - Circulate to Your Staff

2009

Feb 20	Membership Meeting, Milford COA
Feb 26	Mass home Care Lobby Day, Beacon Hill
March 17	Supportive Day, Milford COA
March 27	Advisory Council, Milford COA
April 24	Board Meeting, Worcester Senior Center
May 12	Joint MPHA/WMACA/ASAP/MCOA Spring Conference, Mass Mutual Center, Springfield
May 14	Volunteer Coordinator's Meeting
May 15	Advisory Council, Milford COA
May 19	Supportive Day, Milford COA
May 27	National Senior Fitness Day
June 4	MA Service Alliance: Conference on Volunteering and Service,
June 9	Aging and Dignity Conference, Holy Cross
June 16	Supportive Day, Milford COA
June 19	Membership Meeting, Milford COA
July 16	Advisory Council (Thursday), TBA
August 27	Board Meeting, Worcester Senior Center
September 15	Supportive Day, Milford COA
September 18	Membership Meeting, Milford COA
October 7-9	MCOA Fall Conference Sturbridge Host
November 20	Advisory Council, Milford COA
December 4	Membership Meeting, Milford COA

TBA = Date or Location to be announced

Regional Meetings:

WMACA	represents the four western MA counties, meets quarterly. Joanne Trybus/ So. Hadley (413)538-5042
CEMACA	represents Central MA, meets 4/year. Betsy Connell/ Worcester EOE (508)799-8030
CIRCA	represents SE MA and Cape Cod and the Islands, meets quarterly. Bob Cammarata/ Taunton (508)821-1420
NSACA	represents greater North Shore area meets quarterly. Contact Diane Bertolino/ Rockport (978)546-2573
DUN/MetroWest	Consortium meets regularly. Contact Mary Parcher/ Framingham (508)6204819
Minuteman	Consortium meets regularly. Terri Marciello/ Wilmington (978)657-7595
Merrimack Valley	Consortium meets regularly. Roseann Robillard/ Newburyport COA (978)462-8650 or Lynne Stanton/ Groveland COA (978)372-1101
HESSCO Area	Consortium meets regularly. Contact Barbara Coghlan/ Walpole (508)668-3330 or Janet Angelico/ Wrentham (508)384-5425 or Pat Carty Larkin/ Westwood (781)329-8799
Greater Boston	Unaffiliated COAs in Boston, Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop, Somerville, & Cambridge
LOHSC	Meets the 2 nd Friday of each month at MMA/Boston. Contact Bob Cammarata/ Taunton (508)821-1425

UpComing National Conferences:

March 15-19, 2009 Joint Conference of NCOA and the American Society on Aging Las Vegas, NV

MCOANews: Resources You Can Use: at 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**

MCOANews: Resources You Can Use: Educational Opportunities

The Massachusetts Association of Older Americans, Inc. (MAOA) is please to announce the availability of an Aging & Mental Health training opportunity offered at no cost to participants or their agencies. Offered in partnership with Boston University's Institute for Geriatric Social Work (IGSW), the program allows participants to learn on-line at a convenient pace while engaging in integrating face-to-face classroom sessions with peers. Applications will be accepted until 5:00 PM on February 15, 2009. Please note that we are unable to accept applicants from those who have completed the EOE/IGSW on-line training program. More detailed information about the program and contact information are attached, along with an application form. Please share this information with your staff and colleagues.

Please feel free to contact Cathy Wong: CWong@MAOAmass.org or me at 617-426-0804 or by return email with any questions you may have. Sincerely, Chet Jakubiak, MAOA Director of Mental Health Programs

MCOANews: Resources You Can Use: Fall Prevention Coalition

Please take this opportunity to connect with any senior services organizations in your communities, as well as with everyone in your agency or organization about falls prevention during the winter. With all the snow and ice, walking outside has become treacherous. Please remind seniors to:

1. Stay indoors when conditions are potentially icy and dangerous
2. Change to mall walking or other indoor venues for exercise, being very careful in parking lots
3. Wear good, rubber soled boots
4. If winter walking is safe enough, go with a companion who can assist as needed with balance and support
5. Contact WalkBoston or other local groups such as senior centers, civic clubs, the boy scouts or high school honor society in your community for assistance clearing walkways or shoveling
6. Never rush or hurry on icy surfaces...always take your time!
7. For more information on falls prevention, call this toll free line at DPH: 1-800-227-7233.

If you can contact local media outlets (newspapers, radio stations, cable TV) and ask them to run public service announcements about falls prevention and safe walking in winter, please feel free to pass along this important message. Thanks Alice, Lewis, Pat

MCOANews: Resources You Can Use: Paul Lanzikos, NSES

FYI. The web-site (see bold, below) is comprehensive and worth bookmarking.

A disaster assistance website has been created as a result of Executive Order 13411

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/pdf/06-7492.pdf> which requires the federal government to simplify the process of identifying and applying for disaster assistance by individuals. The site includes information about more than 40 kinds of disaster assistance. You can apply for assistance with a single, online application. The site has recently been updated and can be accessed by visiting this link:

<http://www.disabilityinfo.gov/digov-public/public/DisplayPage.do?parentFolderId=213>

With appreciation to: Paul J. Lanzikos Executive Director North Shore Elder Services, 152 Sylvan Street, Danvers, MA 01923

978/624-2245, 978/624-2244 (TTY)

MCOANews: Resources You Can Use: NCOA

Subject: Resources for assisting with the transition to digital television

State Associations of Senior Centers:

I am writing to tell you about a new resource and ask your help in passing this information on to senior centers across your state. While working on behalf of senior centers at NCOA last year I served as NCOA's representative on a coalition seeking funding to assist seniors with the transition to digital television. We hadn't heard anything when I left June 30, but just before Labor Day weekend the coalition was asked by the Department of Commerce to submit a proposal requiring far less funding. NCOA President Jim Firman quickly realized that the amount available was too small to provide direct funding to more than a handful of senior centers. He knew that all senior centers would be on the front lines of the DTV transition. Therefore, he suggested that NCOA's most appropriate role was to provide information and support to any senior center, regardless if they received funding from any of the coalition partners or another source. Finally, in December our proposal was funded through a performance-based contract between Commerce and n4a, who serves as fiscal host for the Keeping Seniors Connected project.

NCOA is now pleased to offer resources for senior centers to assist their participants in making the transition to DTV. We will do this through an on-line community and a series of webinars and conference calls. We recognize that much of your work to educate and assist participants about the transition is already completed, but we also believe that the most challenging situations are yet to be resolved, especially now that the Department of Commerce has run out of funding for coupons to purchase converter boxes and those applying for a coupon are being placed on waiting lists. Although the coalition's funding, and therefore these resources, are available much later than we all anticipated, we hope you will find the online community, webinars and conference calls helpful.

Please log on to www.ncoa.org/dtv and register to participate in the on-line community. There you will find :

- a 'file cabinet' where you, your staff and volunteers can find DTV transition resources and share resources that have worked for you,
- a calendar with dates important to our work together;
- a list of links to websites with helpful DTV transition information;
- a continually updated collection of the latest news stories on the transition to DTV;
- video instructions on installing a converter box;
- discussion forums on issues related to helping seniors with the transition;
- member profiles to help us get to know each other and identify people who can be resources;
- newsfeeds for the latest on the DTV transition;
- photo gallery and space to blog where you can share your stories.

As soon as we can coordinate with the other Coalition members, we will announce the schedule for the webinars and conference calls.

All we ask is that senior centers voluntarily share the approximate number of contacts they provide from December 1, 2008-April 19, 2009 for education, outreach and individual assistance to apply for coupons, and purchase and/or install equipment. This is important both because we want to demonstrate the extent to which senior centers have been involved in this effort and because this is a performance based contract. We hope that any numbers provided by senior centers will be helpful in securing future funding for aging services network projects.

I hope you will sign up for the online community at www.ncoa.org/dtv, find the resources you need to do this important work, and contribute by sharing what has worked for you. Your ideas for marketing and improving the online community and for suggestions for topics for the webinars and conference calls would be much appreciated. Regards,

Barbara Eiden-Molinaro Senior Center Program Development Coordinator National Council on Aging

1901 L Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20036 Voice: 202.479.6983 | Mobile: 202.360.3978 | Fax: 202.479.0735

Barbara.Eiden-Molinaro@ncoa.org | www.ncoa.org

MCOANews: Resources You Can Use: Emmett Schmarsow, EOE

The Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) is an independent organization within the IRS whose employees assist taxpayers who are experiencing economic harm, who are seeking help in resolving tax problems that have not been resolved through normal channels or who believe that an IRS system or procedure is not working as it should. If you believe you are eligible for TAS assistance, you can reach TAS by calling the TAS toll-free case intake line at 1-877-777-4778 or TTY/TDD 1-800-829-4059. For more information, go to www.irs.gov/advocate.

Grant Opportunity:

This information on Tufts Health Plan's new philanthropic focus has been adapted from a press release.

- Must have 501(c)(3) non-profit status. (ed. note: incorporated "Friends of..." may be eligible)
- No dollar amount is specified.
- There are three areas of focus.
- Letters of inquiry due February 26. Proposals due March 27th.

The Tufts Health Plan Foundation is proud to announce Healthy Aging as its new focus for 2009 and beyond, with three specific program areas within that focus: Vibrant Lifestyles; Intergenerational Collaboration; and Keeping Our Seniors Safe. The Tufts Health Plan Foundation's mission is to promote healthy lifestyles and the delivery of quality care. We look forward to the next phase of our work and to continuing our mission through our Healthy Aging focus aimed at improving the health, wellness and overall quality of life for older adults.

As we prepare for our first round of grantmaking this year, please find more information on this Web site: http://www.tuftshealthplan.com/foundation/foundation.php?sec=grants_program&content=what_we_fund
Tufts Health Plan Foundation 705 Mt. Auburn Street Watertown, MA 02472-1508 Phone: 617.972.1068
Email: Foundation@tufts-health.com Fax: 617.972.9048 Website: www.tuftshealthplanfoundation.org

MCOANews: Resources You Can Use: Telegraph.co.UK

Doctors fear a Wii knee epidemic: Playing too much tennis or golf on the computer could be bad for your health, doctors said yesterday as they predicted a rise in the number of "Wii injuries" over Christmas.

By Kate Devlin Medical Correspondent. Last Updated: 1:04AM GMT 20 Dec 2008.

The games, which encourage players to mimic the actions of sports, can cause painful sprains and fractures, they added. Although the games have been praised for encouraging people to be more active, using them incorrectly or for long periods can lead to injuries. This year, the Wii is predicted to be one of the most popular Christmas presents. But doctors said those who spent too long on the games, especially those unused to exercise, were at risk of strain. Researchers at Leeds Teaching Hospital have identified an injury they called "Wii knee". Last year, osteopaths reported that they saw an increase in back patients after Christmas, and blamed the trend on fathers trying to keep up with their children on the machines. The British Society for Surgery of the Hand (BSSH) also said there had been an increase in the number of injuries caused by excessive use of Wii. Richard Milner, of the BSSH and a consultant plastic and hand surgeon, said that he expected the number of patients to increase over Christmas. He said: "We treated a patient this week who had injured herself using a Wii. She was playing tennis with a partner and fractured one of the bones in her finger when he hit the back of her hand with the control." Dr Andrew Coley, a paediatrician at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, said playing the games for too long in the first flights of enthusiasm could lead to injury. He diagnosed one of his patients when he recognized an injury similar to that he had also sustained over-using his Wii. "This patient had got a Wii for Christmas, hadn't exercised in a while and overdid it. I hurt myself by trying to get an Ace on my serve in the tennis game." Players using a Wii game

MCOANews: Resources You Can Use: Employment Grant

Operation ABLE is looking for locations that can be used for job (re)training and is particularly looking to use senior centers for this purpose. The initial training involves six weeks of intensive training for five days/week, six hours a day; there will likely be follow up courses on specific career tracks, which will likely be an additional three to six weeks. The site (meaning the senior center) would need a minimum of six work stations with computers and internet access. If you are interested in hosting one of these programs, kindly signal your interest by contacting Adam Frank adam.frank@state.ma.us or call him at 617-222-7428. It is possible there may be remuneration for hosting such training. Thank you for your consideration.

Older Worker Demonstration Grants

On December 19, 2008, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA) announced the availability of approximately \$10 million in funds for Older Worker Demonstration Grants.

Barriers to Employment for Older Workers:

According to the Department of Labor and others, issues that limit the participation of older adults in the labor market include:

1. The need to increase skills to keep pace with technological and organizational change
2. Limited access to training to update their skills
3. Lack of skills and confidence of older workers to search for a new job
4. Age discrimination in the workplace
5. Health problems, disabilities, or physical limitations
6. Limited opportunities for flexible work arrangements and customized employment
7. Lack of knowledge on how to start one's own business
8. Poor knowledge about financial needs on retirement
9. Elements of retirement laws and regulations that may discourage work participation.

Grant Goals:

The DOL's Older Worker Demonstration Grants, as part of the High Growth Job Training Initiative (HGJTI), seeks to address the first barriers 1-3, above, through developing improved training and talent development models. Grant goals include:

- (1) Developing a model for talent development within a regional economy that recognizes older workers as a valuable labor pool and includes employment and training strategies to connect older workers to jobs in high-growth, high-demand industries critical to the regional economy.
- (2) Building the capacity of the public workforce investment system to serve older individuals through developing innovative talent development models for the aging worker population.

Applicant:

Operation A.B.L.E. (Ability Based on Long Experience) is preparing an application for a grant. Operation A.B.L.E. serves as an employment and training resource for an economically, occupationally, and racially diverse population of job seekers age 45 and older. Since 1982, Operation A.B.L.E. of Greater Boston – one of seven independently operated A.B.L.E. organizations throughout the country – has helped more than 25,000 job seekers get back to work through a variety of programs and resources designed to help mature workers make the transition to meaningful employment. Operation A.B.L.E., as a training provider, is one in the quartet of partners required by the grant; the other 3 required partners are the public workforce investment system, industry associations or business intermediaries, and educational institutions.

Training Services Being Proposed:

Stage 1: Trainees will attend a 6-week full time program of training on computer skills, customer service skills, and intensive job search skills. Fashioned upon a successful program operated by Operation A.B.L.E., "*Operation Service!*", the six-week course will prepare individuals for internal and external customer contact positions and organizational administration positions. The course will develop skills required to work effectively for employers in the greater Boston area, including but not limited to the financial, healthcare, hospitality, and retail industries. This intensive core training program will teach participants how to take control of the Internet job application process via an in-depth training in MS Windows and Internet navigation, upgrade their MS Office suite skills, and intensively focus upon job search skills specifically targeting the needs of the mature worker.

Some participants will be ready to seek job placement after completing Stage 1.

Stage 2: Trainees may elect to enroll in one of 3 training tracks that Operation A.B.L.E. will offer to prepare workers for high demand jobs in three specific job types:

1. Accounting/bookkeeping work
2. Medical office work clerk, especially focused upon electronic medical records
3. Call centers/customer service

In addition to some classroom training, instructional methods will also include internships and job shadowing.

Placement Assistance:

In developing the application, Operation A.B.L.E. has been working closely with the WIBs in the North Shore, South Shore and Boston regions as well as employers from industries that are uniquely important in Massachusetts – including healthcare and higher education providers – within those regions. These employers will participate in the job shadowing and mentoring aspects of training. These employers recognize Operation A.B.L.E.'s great value as a talent development pipeline for their organizations.

Eligible Participants:

These talent development model programs may focus upon individuals aged 55 and older from any income bracket (including at or below poverty line), including unemployed individuals or incumbent workers.

Service Area Locations:

Operation A.B.L.E. intends to partner with Plan to have 6 training classes per year in 3 sites: 4 classes in a Boston center, 1 class in Lynn, and 1 class in the Lowell/Lawrence area. The WIBs and One Stops in the North Shore, South Shore and Boston will work in partnership with Operation A.B.L.E.

Scale of Program:

The Operation ABLE proposal, if funded, projects it will train and place 90 to 100 mature adults in jobs per year (300 adults over a 3 year period).

Grant Budget and Application Deadline:

DOL anticipates awarding between 10-13 grants, for \$750,000 to \$1 million each, for a grant period of 36 months. The application deadline is February 19, 2009

MCOA Briefs: Award Winners

NCOA Award: I wanted to let you know the we submitted for the CVS/NCOA Prescription for Better Health contest and was awarded one of the 5 honorable mention awards. We submitted our programs that address better balance including our WII program. They loved the WII aspect and awarded for that. The award includes a cash award and registration for the conference. We are very excited to have received the award.

Jayne Colino Director, **Department of Senior Services City of Newton**, 345 Walnut Street, Newtonville MA, 02460 617-796-1671(direct line) 617-969-9560 (fax) jcolino@newtonma.gov www.newtonseniors.org

MA NASW Award: Ann Hartstein has been selected to receive the Mass NASW Chapter's 2009 Beverly Ross Fliegel Greatest Contribution to Social Policy and Change award. The awards dinner is on Tuesday, March 10 from 6:00-8:00PM at the Newton Marriott Hotel in Newton. Cost is \$30/person.

For more information, contact Judith Karpinski [mailto:jakarpinski@yahoo.com]

MCOA Briefs: Job Opportunities

Position Availability: Director of Communications and Development

- For well-established, progressive community-based not-for-profit aging services agency
- Senior staff position working directly with Board level committee and Executive Director
- Directs public relations and fundraising activities
- Excellent writing and interpersonal skills
- Superior computer competency
- Experience with Constant Contact, Quark, web-based social media, development software, and Microsoft Office desired
- Convenient north of Boston office location
- Full time; flexible benefits

Please send letter of application and resume with salary expectations to:

Lisa Sculley North Shore Elder Services 152 Sylvan Street Danvers, MA 01923 lsculley@nselder.org

Fax: 978 750 8053 No phone calls please. EOE / AA

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.

- **Ruth Palumbo, Assistant Secretary lost her mother**
- **Janet Angelico, Wrentham COA lost her sister Judy Gravel**
- **In addition, Jacob (Jack) Michael Pizer**, born October 29, 1916 died peacefully in his apartment on January 3, 2009. "... At normal retirement age Jack returned to university studies, obtaining a graduate certificate in gerontology from the University of Massachusetts, Boston. He then accepted a position in the UMass Boston Gerontology Institute and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs, where he worked until age 87. While there he founded and led two programs: first, a program in age discrimination in employment and then, a program in pension rights. He was proud that a bill he created on age discrimination passed the Massachusetts Legislature.

MCOA Briefs: Transitions- 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.

MCOA Briefs: Transitions- AARP

- As many of you have no doubt heard by now, AARP Massachusetts State President, Charlie Desmond, has been appointed Chairman of the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education by Governor Deval Patrick. The board oversees the 29 public colleges and universities in the Commonwealth. This is a great honor and fabulous opportunity for Charlie, as he has a rich background in higher education. In the announcement from UMass Boston, Charlie is described by Vice Provost Joan Becker, as "the godfather of the educational opportunities programs at UMass Boston," where he served for more than 30 years in various capacities, including vice chancellor of student affairs, interim dean of the College of Public and Community Service and as project director of the Upward Bound program. Due to his new responsibilities, Charlie has resigned as AARP Massachusetts State President, effective January 9. However, fortunately for us, he will remain involved with AARP as a member of the Massachusetts Executive Council. It has been a pleasure for me to work with Charlie as state president and I look forward to his continuing insight and wisdom as a member of our Executive Council.
- Thus- Our search for a new state president has begun. If you, or someone you know, are interested, please contact us at ma@aarp.org, for a position description and other pertinent information. In the meantime, I am pleased that Louise Myers, a longtime AARP volunteer and current member of the Massachusetts Executive Council, has agreed to act as Interim State President until Charlie's successor is appointed. I know many of you know Louise and have worked with her over the years. I am very grateful to her for agreeing to take on these responsibilities. Sincerely,
Deborah E. Banda State Director AARP Massachusetts One Beacon Street, #2301 Boston, MA 02108 617-305-0561 (voice) 617-852-3717 (cell) 617-723-4224 (fax) www.aarp.org/ma

MCOA Briefs: Member Request

Food Banks: I am looking for a **successful partnership between a council on aging and a community food bank**. If anyone can share information with me on their program, I would greatly appreciate it. Thank you.

Madeleine McNielly, Director Attleboro COA 25 South Main Street Attleboro, MA 02703 508-223-2235

email: coa@cityofattleboro.us.

Medium Size Centers: I was hoping you would approve my request to have a mass email announcement asking for information for the Marion Council on Aging. I am looking to visit any COA's with a square footage of approximately 8-10,000 square feet. I emailed Emmett but unfortunately, he does not have a way to retrieve that info. I am feeling this would be easier than calling everyone and asking for their square footage. I have been having difficulties accessing the bulletin board so until that problem is cleared up I would greatly appreciate your approval of this request. Being only part-time Peter and I have been missing each other.

Thanks for considering this request. Susan Schwager sschwager@marionma.gov

MCOA Briefs: UpComing Events:

The MA DTA (Department of Transitional Assistance) is scheduling an update on the newly revised SNAP program (formerly know as Food Stamps). Look for an upcoming announcement of regional events soon.

NCOA/ASA Annual Conference in Las Vegas: Please contact **Jayne Colino** at 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, when you respond to this email, please let me 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 617-796-1671(direct line) 617-969-9560 (fax) jcolino@newtonma.gov www.newtonseniors.org and **MCOA State Delegate to NISC**

SAVE THE DATE: THE AGING WITH DIGNITY CONFERENCE: Preventing and Responding to Substance Use Problems Among Older People. Tuesday, June 9, 2009. A conference for health and human service professionals Holy Cross College, Worcester, MA

Lecture: Gerontology Studies at Holy Cross has invited Ellen Idler to present a lecture on "Religion and Aging in Communities of Memory" on Feb 9, 7pm in the Rehm Library, College of the Holy Cross, as part of the Aging, Spirituality and Ethics lecture series. Ellen is a distinguished medical sociologist and she is currently the Chair of Sociology at Rutgers, Chair of the Behavioral and Social Sciences section for the Gerontological Society of America, and so on. A link to her website and CV is below.

<http://sociology.rutgers.edu/FACULTY/idler.html> Where: College of the Holy Cross, Rehm Library

Master Training Opportunity: Healthy Eating for Successful Living in Older Adults™

What: Training to certify Master Trainers in the Healthy Eating™ nutrition program.

When: March 5 and 6, 2009, 8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. (Participants interested in Lay Leader certification only may leave at 3:30 p.m.)

Where: Hebrew SeniorLife 1200 Centre Street Boston, MA 02131

Costs: FREE to participants who agree to offer two (2) Healthy Eating™ participant workshops within 12 months of certification.

For more information about the Healthy Eating™ program or to register for the Master Training, please contact Jennifer Raymond at JenniferRaymond@hrca.harvard.edu or 617-363-8319.

SAVE THE DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH - Mass Home Care Lobby Day- Statehouse

Focal Points Distribution

Please Forward 5 Copies to:

Director / Staff

Board Chair

Mayor / Town Council

Select Board / City Council

Finance Committee

MCOA Briefs: UpComing Events: EOEA Board Training

To : All MA Councils on Aging
From : Host Site Councils on Aging
Re : **COA Board Trainings -- Additional Sessions, One Time Change**

Please know that Elder Affairs will conduct six (regional) board trainings during the upcoming months at the senior centers noted below. You are cordially invited to attend one of these sessions. These informative trainings cover a variety of subjects including the roles and responsibilities of board members, staff and volunteers, as well as topics relating to COA services and activities, and an overview of the aging network in Massachusetts. Board members, COA directors and "Friends of the COA" are welcome; audience participation is strongly encouraged.

Registration dates and times are noted below. Please confirm your attendance with the site host at least one week in advance. Lunch may be available: if you are interested, please contact the sponsoring COA prior to the program. Thank you.

Training will be conducted by Mr. Emmett Schmarsow, program manager for Councils on Aging and senior centers at the Elder Affairs for many years. Light refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing you soon!

February 26th (alt. March 5th) **Medfield COA** 36 West Mill St.
Roberta Lynch: medfieldcoa@hotmail.com 508-359-3665
Program is from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Registration from 8:30 – 9:00 am.

March 13th **Northampton COA** 67 Conz St.
Patte Shaughnessy: pshaughnessy@northampton.ma.gov 413-587-1228
Program is from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Registration from 8:30 – 9:00 am.

April 16th **Danvers COA** 25 Stone St.
Pamela Parkinson: pparkinson@mail.davers-ma.org 978-762-0208
Program is from **1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** Registration from 12:30 – 1:00 pm.

In case of inclement weather, please call the host site or Elder Affairs at 1-800-698-9723. Thank you.

Elder Affairs, in cooperation with local COAs, is open to conducting additional regional trainings as time permits. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding these programs, please contact Emmett Schmarsow at emmett.schmarsow@state.ma.us or our toll-free number.

THE MASSACHUSETTS HEALTH COUNCIL

Presents a Women's Health Forum

*Getting Healthy, Staying Healthy:
Knowledge is Everything*



SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, March 20, 2009 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

Marriott Copley Place

617-965-3711 www.mahealthcouncil.org

Join with our Keynote Speaker

Cynthia Geyer, MD, Medical Director, Canyon Ranch

and our moderators

Mallika Marshal, MD, Medical Reporter, WBZ-TV

and Marjorie Clapprood, WRKO-Radio

as we cover the following health topics:

- Breast and Cervical Cancer • Domestic Violence • Heart Disease
- Reproductive and Sexual Health 30-70 • Aging
- Healthy Weight • Managing Stress • Access and Disparities

Invite your sisters, grandmothers, mothers, aunts, and friends!

Reservation Due February 17, 2009

MCOA
Membership Meeting
February 20, 2009
Milford's Senior Center

9:30 - 10am Registration

10am- 10:15 Business Meeting

Updates: Legislative Agenda: Including 9c cuts, FY10 Budget Campaign

10:30- 12:30pm Program: (see page one for details)

ADRCs: Taking Some of the Alphabet Out of the Soup.

Emerging Trends in Legal Needs of Elders: How Best to Respond

12:30- 1:00pm Buffet Lunch:

1:00 - 2:30pm Committee Meetings: Workforce/Civic Engagement Task Force

Registration Deadline is Tuesday, February 17th *(received by noon)

Registration Fees:	MCOA Members	\$20.00
	Non-members	\$40.00

Morning Meeting only \$10. (space and coffee- no lunch)

Note a Council on Aging or Agency is considered a member if your FY2009 Dues were paid or will be paid.

Registrant's Name	Council /Agency
--------------------------	------------------------

Number of Members Registered	_____ x \$20.00 = _____
Number of Non-members	_____ x \$40.00= _____
Morning Meeting Only	_____ x \$10.00= _____
Total Due	\$_____

Payment or Purchase Order should accompany registration form. Make checks payable to MCOA
Send to: MCOA 116 Pleasant Street - Room 306, Easthampton, MA 01027-2740
Or call: (413)527-6425
Or Fax: (413)527-7138

Directions: Get to I-495 south of Mass Pike. Take Exit 20 and travel on Route 85 towards Milford. The road ends at a light which is Route 16. Take a Right and follow Rt. 16 thru two set of lights. At the third set of lights (City Hall in front on left) turn left on to North Bow Street. The COA is on your left about 1/4 down the street #60. If lost contact Milford COA at (508)473-8334.