

MCOA BRIEFS
Weekly News from your State COA Association
Friday 28 May 2010

**We attempt to keep only the most important or recent news (last 30 days, dated) at the top.
Posting Requests — please notify us when Positions or Inquiries are filled — Thank you
(Posting date is at the right of each entry)**

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**For Our Members / Upcoming Events / Member Inquiries / Job Opportunities
“Worth Repeating”**

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Submissions / Updates / Comments — peter@mcoaonline.com

ALWAYS ONLINE @ www.mcoaonline.com

The latest MCOA Monthly Newsletter — **May 2010**

Discover the MCOA Bulletin Board

http://www.mcoaonline.com/members_only/mcoabb/

(Right-Click on the open Bulletin Board to save as an icon on your Desktop.)

Call for Presentations

Older Americans' Mental Health Week, May 23-29 2010

<http://www.mentalhealthweek.org/Welcome.html>

MCOA Briefs: For our Members — National Town Hall Mtg on Healthcare
“Though the deadline has passed, I would still recommend taping this program for use at your senior center.”
— David P. Stevens, MCOA

See: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/healthcare/index.php>

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MCOA Briefs: For our Members — Flood Relief & Rising Costs Help

Disaster Recovery Centers are closing, but FEMA will continue to accept flood claims until the end of June...

See: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/consumer/index.php>

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MCOA Briefs: For our Members — SBA Disaster Loans Available

The Small Business Association can help home owners renters and non-farm business of all sizes as well as private non-profit organizations with property damaged by disaster.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is **May 28, 2010**.

The deadline to return economic injury applications is **December 29, 2010**.

See: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/grants/index.php>

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MCOA Briefs: For our Members — Medicare & The New Health Care Law

Subject: Medicare Update: Medicare & The New Health Care Law – What it Means for You – Many Medicare Beneficiaries to receive \$250 check

Medicare beneficiaries will soon receive information in the mail about the immediate benefits they may see from the new the Affordable Care Act. The first benefit that several million Medicare beneficiaries will receive is a one-time check for \$250, if they enter the Part D donut hole and are not eligible for Medicare Extra Help. The donut hole, or coverage gap, is the period in the prescription drug benefit in which a beneficiary pays 100 percent of the cost of their drugs until they hit the catastrophic coverage. Next year, all beneficiaries who enter the gap will get a 50 percent discount for covered brand name Part D drugs. Also beginning next year, Medicare beneficiaries will get preventive care services like colorectal cancer screening and mammograms without cost-sharing, in addition to an annual wellness visit. A fact sheet about Medicare and the new health care law is available in English and Spanish.

This information has recently been updated, and can be read by visiting this link:

http://www.disability.gov/health/health_insurance/medicare

Paul J. Lanzikos, Executive Director, North Shore Elder Services, 152 Sylvan Street, Danvers, MA 01923-3568
978/624-2245 — 978/624-2244 (TTY) 5/28

MCOA Briefs: For our Members — 2009 Blue Cross Billing Error UPDATE

FYI- As you know, last year Prescription Advantage enrollees in a BCBS Part D product were not billed for a differential in the benchmark amount. Some enrollees were billed and should not have been and some were never billed. BCBS is required to attempt to collect the amount owed to them. Below please find an update from Cindy Phillips, SHINE, on how these enrollees will be impacted.

Special thanks to Diane Paulson for following up on this matter and getting clarity about the process going forward. — Jessica Costantino, AARP Advocacy Director

From: Phillips, Cynthia (ELD)

Subject: BCBS bills for PA members

The Medicare Beneficiary Work group met today and CMS staff Arlene DiSalvo reported that after months of work between CMS and BCBS, there is a resolution to this problem.

About 5800 Massachusetts members had help from PA last year to pay their Blue Medicare RX PDP premiums up to the benchmark amount. BCBS, due to a systems glitch did not bill the members for the remaining amount above the benchmark that they owed. By law, BCBS is required to attempt to collect that remaining amount owed them. A letter and bill recently went out explaining the problem apprising the members of the amount owed (which includes the 2010 premiums). A payment plan is proposed.

Members are advised to call Blue Cross with questions. Arlene says: if they call Blue Cross the bill will be "adjusted", if they pay Blue Cross, the amount will be credited to future premiums. If they ignore the letter, there will be no ramifications.

Basically no one is harmed by this action. Bottom line, please advise people to call Blue Cross.

Thanks and have a nice weekend! — Cindy Phillips, SHINE 5/28

MCOA Briefs: For our Members — 2009 Blue Cross Part D Billing Error

This error affected Prescription Advantage members in the S1, S2 and S3 categories who were enrolled in the Blue Cross stand-alone Part D plans during 2009. This error resulted in both over billing and under billing members. Adjustments have been made to member accounts and will be reflected in the April 2010 premium invoice scheduled to be mailed by May 7th.

See: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/wellness/prescription.php> 5/7

MCOA Briefs: For our Members — CDC Healthy Aging Site

The U.S. National Centers for Disease Control has an excellent Healthy Aging site.

See: <http://www.cdc.gov/aging/> Courtesy Emmett Schmarsow, EOE 5/21

MCOA Briefs: For our Members — U.S. Health & Human Services Guide

Taking Care of Myself: A Guide for When I Leave the Hospital — a guide for patients to help them care for themselves when they leave the hospital. — Courtesy Linn Morrill, MDPH
See: <http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/goinghomeguide.htm> 5/21

MCOA Briefs: For our Members — Letter to Senate on Forced Enrollment
Coalition Forms to Fight Forced Enrollment into Managed Care Plans
See: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/legislative/index.php> 5/7

MCOA Briefs: For our Members — Donut Hole \$250 Check Scam
Please know that “Any Medicare beneficiary who reaches the donut hole is automatically eligible to receive a rebate of \$250. The elder’s drug plan will contact CMS directly when this threshold is reached; CMS will issue the \$250 check directly to the senior during the next quarter.
There is NO application process; there are NO phone calls associated with the issuance of this check! Any contact/s, or attempted contacts, should be immediately reported to CMS (1-800-MEDICARE; 1-800-633-4227) and local police. COA staff may feel free to contact their SHINE counselor if you have any question/concern re: this email. Thank you. 5/14
Courtesy of Emmett Schmarsow, Prog. Mgr. COAs & Senior Centers, ELD on behalf of the SHINE program.

MCOA Briefs: For our Members — Boil Water Order— FAQs, Guidelines
Arlington / Belmont / Boston / Brookline / Canton / Chelsea / Everett / Lexington / Lynnfield Water District / Malden / Marblehead / Medford / Melrose / Milton / Nahant / Newton / Norwood / Quincy / Reading / Revere / Saugus / Somerville / Stoneham / Stoughton / Swampscott / Wakefield / Waltham / Watertown / Winchester / Winthrop — <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/PressRelease/index.php> 5/7

MCOA Briefs: President Obama declares May 2010 Older Americans Month
See: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/legislative/index.php> 4/30

MCOA Briefs: For our Members — Recent Census Scams
Information flyer: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/consumer/scams.php> 4/30

MCOA Briefs: For our Members — Expansion of LTC Options Counseling
Ann Hartstein 4/15/2010 Letter: MRC/EOEA Expansion of the Long Term Care Options Counseling Program
See: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/wellness/index.php> 4/30

MCOA Briefs: For our Members — 2009 Municipal Finance Law Changes
DOR Legislation 2009-22B includes Property Tax Workoff on pp. 3-4
<http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/consumer/property-tax.php>
FY 2010 Budget — Property Tax Work-off — Outside Section 24 site
http://www.mass.gov/bb/gaa/fy2010/os_10/hdefault.htm 4/23

MCOA Briefs: For our Members — National Center for Creative Aging
The National Center for Creative Aging is dedicated to ensuring that older people have access to artistic excellence. As such, each year we provide thousands of professionals in the fields of aging, health care, social work, education and the arts with highly interactive trainings that wed theory and practice. In addition, we distribute essential materials and publications for those serving older adults.
IT IS FREE TO SUBSCRIBE TO CREATIVE AGING, our email newsletter.
Simply email us to sign up — info@creativeaging.org
Thanks to Linn Morrill, Mass Department of Public Health 4/23

Upcoming Events — by Event Date

MCOA Briefs: Upcoming Events — Grandparents Raising Grandchildren GRANDS (Grandparents Raising Grandchildren) Educational Workshop Series

Thursday 3 June, Wednesday 9 June, Wednesday 23 June, Wednesday 7 July

Announcement Flyer: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/conferences/index.php>

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MCOA Briefs: Upcoming Events — Aging With Dignity Conference in June THE AGING WITH DIGNITY CONFERENCE: Tuesday 8 June 2010

Preventing and Responding to Substance Use Problems Among Older People

A conference for health and human service professionals. College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA0. Registration brochure will be mailed six weeks before the conference. If you would like additional information, please contact AdCare Educational Institute, Inc. at 508-752-7313; TTY: 508-754-0039

MCOA Briefs: Upcoming Events — Health Care Reform: What's Next?

Health Care Reform: What Happened? What's Next?

Thursday 17 June 2010, 6-7 PM Light Refreshments, 7-9 PM Panel Discussion

Brookline Senior Center, 93 Winchester Street, Brookline MA

Event flyer: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/conferences/index.php>

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MCOA Briefs: Upcoming Events — MAOA Aging & Mental Health Conf.s

MAOA is excited to share brochures and registration for two upcoming Aging and Mental Health Conferences: Susan Kastle, MPH, Mental Health Program Director, MA Association of Older Americans — (617) 426-0804

June 18th (Fri), Pittsfield MA — Aging in the New Age: Mental Wellness in the Era of the Boomers

June 30th (Wed), Worcester MA — The Body/Mind Connection: Brain Health

Brochure: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/conferences/index.php>

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MCOA Briefs: Upcoming Events — It Takes More than Ramps

Accessible Health Care: It Takes More than Ramps — An all-day conference for practice managers, hospital administrators, ADA coordinators, facility managers, and health care practitioners

Tuesday, June 22, 2010 — 9:00 am - 4:00 pm — Shrewsbury MA

Event Flyer: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/conferences/index.php>

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MCOA Briefs: Upcoming Events — Prescription Drugs: Good, Bad, Ugly

You are invited to the BSAS: (#241) Prescription Drugs: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly scheduled on **Tuesday, June 29, 2010**. Registration Fee: \$50 payable to AdCare Educational Institute, Inc.

Mail payment to: 5 Northampton Street, Worcester, MA 01605

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, June 23, 2010 (or when the workshop reaches capacity)

Continuing Education Credits: 5.50

Location: Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center

Address: 181 Boston Post Road West, Marlborough, MA 01721

Phone: (508) 460-0700

If you have any questions, please contact me. Marion Clark-Jalbert, Training Coordinator, AdCare Educational Institute, Inc., Marion@adcare-educational.org — 508.752.7313

Member Inquiries

(Posting COAs — please notify us when inquiries are answered — Thank you)

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — Telephone Reassurance Programs ?

Will you please email me back if your city/town currently has a telephone reassurance program for seniors (i.e., RUOK, IMOK, DSC care, Blackboard Connect, Everbridge, etc.)? Thanks, Dawn Dawn Folopoulos, Elder/Human Services Administrator, Town of Reading ~ 16 Lowell Street ~ Reading MA 01867 ~ dfolopoulos@ci.reading.ma.us ~ 781-942-6658 ~ Fax: 781-942-9071 5/28

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — PT Outreach Worker job description ?

I am looking for a job description for a part-time outreach worker, as well as salary levels. Please email Marcia Cairns, West Boylston Council on Aging at mcairns@westboylston-ma.gov Thanks, Marcia Cairns, RN, BSN, Director, West Boylston Council on Aging, 127 Hartwell St. Suite 100, West Boylston MA 01583 — 508-835-6916 — fax; 508-835-3486

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — Elderly/Disabled Tax Relief applications

Westford COA is looking for copies of Tax Relief for Elderly and Disabled tax relief applications that other communities may use? They may be emailed to jsheehan@westfordma.gov or faxed to Joanne at 978 392-4992. Thank you, Joanne Sheehan, Director, Westford COA 5/14

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — Feasibility Studies for Senior/Community Centers

The Lincoln COA hopes to issue an RFP for a feasibility study to look at programming and related space needs, and siting as a first step to acquiring more adequate space. If you have issued an RFP for similar services, could you please forward a copy to bottumc@lincolntown.org ? We are especially interested in seeing your Scope of Service and the estimated cost of the study. Thank you! Carolyn Bottum, Director, Lincoln COA 5/14

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — Interdepartmental Mergers / Reorg ?

Would you please ask MCOA members to let me know if their departments have been part of any interdepartmental mergers or reorganization? I want to know how that has worked out for them. Our Town Manager is considering merging our Leisure Services, Health and Senior Center depts. into one Community Services Dept under one (non-human service) director. Thank you so much. ~Nancy Nancy Hirsh Pagano, Director, Amherst Senior Center, 70 Boltwood Walk, Amherst MA 01002 Phone: 413-259-3114 — Fax: 413-259-2413 — Email: paganon@amherstma.gov 5/7

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — Board Member Liability Insurance ?

I'm interested in getting board member liability insurance for the Friends of the Arlington Council on Aging. Do you have any idea how to approach this? Any idea of parameters and good companies to approach for this? Thank You – Art / Friends of the Arlington COA Arthur Budnik — agbud@msn.com 4/30

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — 2003 Dodge Ram Van B3500 for Sale

2003 Dodge Ram Van B3500 with wheelchair lift for sale. 119,000 miles. Good condition. Has been used strictly for transporting the elderly in and around local communities. 8 cylinder/11 passenger. Asking \$4,500. For more information, call Trudy at the Wenham Council on Aging – 978-468-5529 4/30

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — Large Twin Hospital Bed Available

A generous donor has offered a large twin hospital bed with a fully encased mattress. It needs to be picked up from a home in Lexington; it has been dismantled for moving purposes. It has wheels that lock ; the height is adjustable. Interested party/ies should contact Angela Smith (978-371-2895) who will get you in touch with the generous donor. Angela Smith, Carlisle Council on Aging Outreach Coordinator, 66 Westford Street, Carlisle MA 01741 — 978-371-2895 4/30

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — Volunteer Coordinator job descriptions ?

Looking for volunteer coordinator job descriptions and senior center emergency evacuation policies. Please forward to Becky Moriarty, Executive Director, Hampden Senior Center, 104 Allen Street, Hampden, MA 01036 or fax to 413-566-2103 or email at coa@hampden.org Thank you. 4/30

Job Opportunities

(Posting COAs — please notify us when position is filled — Thank you)

MCOA Briefs: For our Members — Job Posting Strategies

Announcing Job Positions: Various Strategies and Suggestions — from Emmett Schmarsow at EOEa.
<http://www.mcoasonline.com/content/jobs/index.php>

MCOA Briefs: Job Opportunity — Stow COA — Van Driver FT

The Town of Stow has set the deadline date of Friday, May 21, 2010 5 p.m. which will be extended if they haven't received many applications.

Job Description: <http://www.mcoasonline.com/content/jobs/index.php>

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MCOA Briefs: Job Opportunity — Natick COA — Assistant Director

Town of Natick, Human Services & Council on Aging, Assistant Director/Program Developer Assist Director in oversight of daily operations of facility, including comprehensive programming for multipurpose center for residents of all ages. Prior experience managing staff, facilities, and knowledge of regional and State agencies offering programs / resources for residents of all ages.

Minimum Bachelor's degree in Social Services, Gerontology, Human Services, Health Studies, Public Administration or related field. Advanced computer skills in Word, Excel, Power Point; exceptional interpersonal, and oral and written communication skills. Minimum five years experience in related field at least one year of supervisory experience, valid Massachusetts's Driver's License.

Competitive salary; exceptional benefit program; exciting opportunity to be in on the ground floor of a soon to be constructed state of the art facility.

Position descriptions available at Town Administrator's office, Human Services/COA office. Cover letter, and resume and / or Town of Natick application to: Personnel Director, Town of Natick, 13 East Central Street, Natick, MA. 01760 by **May 31, 2010** or email rtranfaglia@natickma.org, or fax 508-647-6401 EOE 5/14

MCOA Briefs: Job Opportunity — Natick COA Volunteer Coordinator

Part time (19) hours per week. Recruitment, orientation, training, placement, supervision of over 200 volunteers. Bachelor's degree or equivalent minimum two to three years managing volunteers.

Presentations, public contact, database management, and a valid Massachusetts's Driver's license.

Flexible schedule, starting at \$12.36 per hour. Does not include benefits.

Position descriptions available at Town Administrator's office, Human Services/COA office. Cover letter, and resume and / or Town of Natick application to: Personnel Director, Town of Natick, 13 East

Central Street, Natick, MA. 01760 **by May 31, 2010** or email rtranfaglia@natickma.org, or fax 508-647-6401 EOE

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MCOA Briefs: Job Opportunity — Southampton Director/Van Administrator

The Town of Southampton is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Council on Aging Director/Van Administrator. The pay rate is \$12.42 per hour for 23 hours a week plus a \$155 monthly stipend. Please email councilonaging@town.southampton.ma.us or visit the Council on Aging at the Edwards Public Library, 30 East Street, Southampton for a complete job description and application. Applications must be **submitted by June 1, 2010**. The start date of the position is July 1, 2010. Jennifer Peloquin, Southampton Council on Aging, PO Box 102, Southampton MA 01073 413-529-2105 — councilonaging@town.southampton.ma.us

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CONDOLENCES

MCOA Briefs: In Memoriam — Elizabeth Jope

Memorial Service, **Sunday 6 June 2010 at 1pm**, Woburn Senior Center, 144 School St., Woburn MA

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Dear Member — From John Jope: My dear Elizabeth passed from our care Thursday night (4/22) at 10:44 PM. I was bedside. Her transition was gentle, peaceful, and swift; she simply stopped breathing. She has touched so many in her life in such quiet and positive ways. I am blessed to have had her in my life, and to have been present when she made the transition.

I will be arranging a memorial service in about a month's time, and will get the particulars out when I can. — John

Make your donation payable to the Winchester Hospital Foundation:

Winchester Hospital Foundation
c/o Cancer Care Foundation
611 Main Street
Winchester, MA 01890-1902

In the memo space: Cancer Care Center

In a note with your donation, please let the Cancer Care Center know you are giving this donation in memory of Elizabeth Jope.

If you would also like to have your donation acknowledged to John, please state that you want him to know. Best regards, Janiece — Janiece Leach, Financial Manager, janiece@mcoonline.com 4/23

— ★ **WORTH REPEATING** ★ —

[**NB: Please re-send your submissions after 30 days**]

We are collecting info on any cuts...

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 **We also need a copy sent to Peter@mcoonline.com**