

MCOA News

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Notes from the Executive Director: Late August 2009

Please Circulate to Your Staff

Member COAs: Are you getting weekly MCOA Briefs? Every Friday you should be receiving, via email, a lengthy communication from Peter Kubaska, our webmaster that includes more timely updates. It is the precursor of MCOA News going electronic as we go paperless. Thus if you are not getting our weekly MCOA Briefs contact Peter at 413.527.6425 or peter@mcoaonline.com

Enclosed in This Mailing:

- **Governor Patrick swears in Ann Hartstein as EOE A Secretary**
- **Legislative Alert: More Vetos, National Health Care Debate, Instructions for the Thank You Campaign**
- **2009 Fall Conference: October 7-9 at the Sturbridge Host**
- **2009 Awards - Call for Nominations**
- **Regular Columns: Including UpComing Event, Transitions & Member Request**
- **MCOA is Going Paperless- Reminder**
- **MCOA Membership Meeting September 18th at Milford COA**

Topic: Low Vision 101 and Available Resources

Commissioner Janet LaBreck, MA Commission for the Blind and
Anna Kosterski, Rehabilitation Teacher in our Central MA office

Reservation Form Included on Last page

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Sept 15, 2009

Everything you need is at www.mcoaonline.com

- **Hotel Reservation Form & Hotel Layout Map**
- **Conference Registration material including Bulletin and Checklist**
- **Conference Schedule and Menus**
- **Remember try Online Registration to Save Money and Time**
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- **Send your Nominations for MCOA Annual Awards**

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MCOA Legislative Update

Hartstein: Right person for Elder job

By Dick Lindsay, Berkshire Eagle Staff Updated: 08/13/2009 10:49:47 AM EDT



Ann L. Hartstein takes the oath to become the new... (Darren Vanden Berge / Berkshire Eagle Staff)

PITTSFIELD -- The newest advocate for senior citizens from the Berkshires to Boston is being touted as "the right person" to become the state's new Secretary of Elder Affairs.

Ann L. Hartstein, a 30-year veteran of assisting the elderly in Massachusetts, was formally sworn into office by Gov. Deval L. Patrick on Wednesday during a ceremony at the Ralph J. Froio Senior Center on North Street. She replaces Michael E. Festa, who left the position several months ago.

"I am absolutely confident Ann Hartstein is the right person for this job right now," Patrick said.

"She is the right person for the position," added Deb Banda, state director for the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), "because she knows the senior community."

The high praise of Hartstein is based on her resume and her vision of how senior citizens should live out their lives in the Commonwealth.

Hartstein, a native of St. Louis, Mo., arrived in Cambridge in the late 1970s to be a social worker at a nursing home. She would eventually spend 11 years as director of Needham's Council on Aging, followed by a six-year stint in the Executive Office of Elder Affairs where she oversaw programs for seniors, including the implementation of a new prescription drug plan. Hartstein went on to become the executive director of the Massachusetts Association of Older Americans, before returning to state government.

With the state's population continuing to get older, Hartstein said it's important the elderly decide what help they need in order to stay in their own home. "My goal is that ageism is eliminated," Hartstein said, "and we all have the ability to live where we want to."

Executive Director of the Massachusetts Councils on Aging, David P. Stevens, said with the state having "more seniors than kids under 18 in the coming decade," a complete review is needed of all government services and programs for the elderly. "Do we need to tweak things," Stevens asked the gathering at the senior center, "or do we need to augment [those programs]?"

Yet, Hartstein said "being old doesn't mean being needy," and she, along with other elder advocates, want senior citizens to remain a vital part of their communities.

"We need to tap into the talents of an aging population to benefit our communities," said Banda.

Whatever the role the elderly play in shaping the state's future, Hartstein's supporters said she will lead the way.

"She is another secretary who will make a large difference," Stevens said.

To reach Dick Lindsay: rlindsay@berkshireeagle.com, or (413) 496-6233.

MCOA Legislative Update *continued*

STATE CAPITOL BRIEFS – WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2009

STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

LG MURRAY: 9C CUTS STILL ON THE TABLE

Spending cuts to state agencies and programs in the fiscal 2010 budget remain on the table, Lt. Gov. Timothy Murray said on Wednesday. “That clearly has to be in the back of everyone’s mind as we contemplate overrides and other types of things,” Murray told the News Service. “If this budget’s out of whack...clearly it will require us to look at it from a perspective of 9C cuts.” Murray noted that last summer, the administration had asked its cabinet secretaries to come with a “9C cut list.” “Certainly, [Patrick budget chief Leslie] Kirwan has indicated to people, given what we’ve gone through and experienced this year, that it’s not out of the realm of possibility,” Murray said. “We obviously hope that it doesn’t happen but we have to prepare for different contingencies.” Murray said lawmakers were “wise” to hold off on veto overrides involving state funds until July revenue figures come in. “I think on virtually every one of the line item vetoes, these were tough choices and impacting good people and good programs,” he said, defending the vetoes, including a \$4 million cut to the Franklin Park and Stone zoos that has generated public outcry. “Quite frankly, I think some of those issues and programs affecting people to me are much more compelling than llamas and exotic birds, as much as I love them with a four- and three-year-old.” “9C” cuts are so named because of the chapter in state law allowing the governor to make mid-year spending cuts.

Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO):

Proposed Changes to Regional Plan

Several opportunities are coming up to get involved in transportation planning in the Boston metropolitan region. The public comment period for a pair of important regional transportation plans will begin Monday, August 24. The Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will hold a series of public workshops related to the plans in Norfolk (September 14), Woburn (September 15), and Boston (September 16). Attached are a public notice and a flyer from the Boston Region MPO that provide more information on the 30-day comment period and the public workshops.

Public Notice The Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is proposing two important actions: 1) an amendment to its long-range transportation plan, JOURNEY TO 2030 (Plan Amendment), and 2) adoption of its draft of the federal fiscal years (FFYs) 2010–2013 Transportation Improvement Program and Air Quality Conformity Determination (TIP).

A 30-day public comment period on the draft Plan Amendment and the draft FFYs 2010–2013 TIP will begin on Monday, August 24, 2009. It will close at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, September 22, 2009. A meeting to take action on these documents is currently scheduled for Thursday, October 1, 2009.

The meeting will begin at 10:00 AM in Conference Room 4 of the State Transportation Building, 10 Park Plaza, Boston. Members of the public are invited to attend. Comments on the drafts will be accepted in writing at the address below before the close of their public comment period and at the meeting.

For details, including information on the meetings and copies of the proposed Plan Amendment and the draft FFYs 2010–2013 TIP, refer to the MPO’s website, www.bostonmpo.org, beginning August 25. Also on its website are the MPO’s antidiscrimination statement and related information.

Copies of the proposed materials will also be obtainable by contacting MPO staff: by mail at 10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150, Boston, MA 02116-3968; by voice at (617) 973-7100; by TTY at (617) 973-7089; by fax at (617) 973-8855; or by e-mail at publicinformation@ctps.org. Copies are free of charge and, upon request, will be made available in CD, print, and accessible formats.

We need to know: 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

MCOA Legislative Update: FY10 Budget continued

From ...At Home September, 2009 a publication of Mass Home Care

Home Care Funds Vetoed —Twice

On August 7, 2009, Governor **Deval Patrick** vetoed for a second time the General Court's attempt to restore funding to the home care account that pays for care managers for the elderly. When the legislature passed its fiscal year 2010 budget, Governor Patrick cut \$1.5 million in care manager funds from the home care program. The first veto from the Governor came on June 29. A press release announcing \$147 million in line item cuts began with this sentence: "Amid the worst global economic decline since the Great Depression, Governor Deval Patrick today signed into law a \$27.046 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2010..." One of the items that the Governor said was "unaffordable in this economic climate", was the home care staffing line item. Care managers are the core home care workers who go into the homes of the elderly to determine what kind of services will keep them independent at home. These workers then arrange for, and purchase these services, and monitor their quality. Some care managers in the home care program are working with more than 100 seniors per month. "By making thoughtful, careful decisions, we have protected services for the most vulnerable and made investments for the long-term in education and healthcare so that we're ready when the upswing comes," Patrick said in his veto message. The Governor indicated that the state would be using \$8.7 billion in federal recovery funding for Massachusetts to help bridge the financial gap until the economy rebounds. But none of this federal funding could rescue the care management account. The state has received \$1.58 billion dollars in increased federal reimbursement for Medicaid—but the home care account, whose beneficiaries are more than 30% Medicaid—received no supplemental federal support. Some federal funds were channeled into the nutrition program for seniors, but care managers were cut. The care management account stood at more than \$40 million at the start of FY 2009. The Governor's cut in FY 2010 has lowered that funding to \$36 million—a \$4 million total cut, or a 10% drop in funding. This line item has not been as low since FY 2001, when the care management account was funded at \$35.6 million—almost a decade ago. Back in 2001, the care management account was 28% of the overall home care budget, counting the larger purchased services home care line item. If care management today was held at the same percentage share of the home care budget, the account for these workers would have \$39.1 million— or \$3 million more than currently appropriated. The General Court responded to the \$1.5 million veto in their FY 2010 supplemental budget. The legislature voted to restore 13% of the lost funds, or only \$200,000. But when the supplemental budget reached the Governor's desk, he vetoed even the \$200,000. "Regretfully," the Governor said, "I am not able to approve all of the funding contained in this supplemental appropriations legislation in light of continuing revenue uncertainty in fiscal year 2010." The Governor cut approximately \$25 million in net spending from the legislature's supplemental budget—an amount that his office said was equal to the full amount of the July tax revenue shortfall. Specifically with regards to the care managers for home care, the Governor's veto message stated, "I am vetoing this item because the appropriation is not recommended in light of available revenues."

Governor Vetoes Personal Needs Allowance---Twice

Another casualty of the FY 2010 budget process was the Personal Needs Allowance for residents on MassHealth in nursing homes. On June 29th, Governor Patrick vetoed language in the FY2010 budget protecting the MassHealth Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) for nursing home and rest home residents. The vetoed language would have maintained the PNA at its current monthly level of \$72.80. Under state law, individuals on MassHealth who are in a nursing home or rest home are allowed to keep a small monthly income to cover their personal expenses. This income is called their "personal needs allowance" or PNA. It is used by residents to pay for basic necessities that MassHealth does not cover, such as clothing and shoes, hair care, phone calls, stamps and other basics. Back in 1991, the PNA was reduced from \$72.80 a month to \$60. The PNA stayed at that level for 17 years. In FY 2008, it was raised back to \$72.80. The language the Governor vetoed at the end of July would have protected the PNA at the \$72.80 level. On July 1, 2009, a letter from lawmakers was sent to House Speaker **Robert DeLeo** and House Ways & Means Chairman **Charles Murphy**, urging them to override the Governor's veto. "We are writing to ask that you take up for override Governor Patrick's veto of the MassHealth Personal Needs Allowance for nursing home and rest home residents," the letter said. Mass Home Care was one of the groups which signed onto the letter. "It is obvious from the Governor's veto that without protective language in the budget the PNA will be subject to efforts to reduce it. Even in these difficult economic times it is very troubling that the Administration would reduce the minimal amount of money allocated to nursing home and rest home residents for their personal needs. The savings accomplished by such a cut are insignificant for the state and devastating for affected individuals. We urge you to take up for override Governor Patrick's veto." The annual cost of raising the PNA from \$60 back to \$72.80 was estimated to be less than \$5 million. When the General Court passed their FY 2010 supplemental budget, they included sufficient funding in the PNA account to raise the monthly allotment from \$60 to \$69.68. But the Governor vetoed this funding in the supplemental budget. The state legislature will not return to formal session until the middle of September. The legislature is not expected to override more vetoes, so the PNA will drop back to \$60—which means that more than 30,000 seniors in nursing homes will have \$2 a day for their personal needs. There is legislation in the General Court that would restore the PNA to its 2008 level—but the future of such legislation is not clear. Activists charge that the cutback in the PNA may violate provisions of the federal stimulus funding agreement with the Commonwealth, which requires the state to maintain its level of funding for MassHealth services. Federal matching funds could be jeopardized if the PNA cut violates the terms of the federal stimulus agreement.

MCOA Legislative Update: Safe Roads Now

More Background can be found at www.mcoaonline.com see Safe Roads Now

Elderly drivers in fewer accidents than others

Statistics don't discourage push to change law By David Abel, Globe Staff | July 19, 2009

Two weeks ago, an elderly Reading woman died after her 92-year-old husband slammed into her while backing out of a parking spot at West Dennis Yacht Club. A week before, an 84-year-old woman from Malden died when her 83-year-old husband crashed into another car in Woburn. And two weeks earlier than that, an 89-year-old Canton woman allegedly hit and killed a 4-year-old girl in a Stoughton crosswalk. Those crashes - among at least eight serious car accidents in Massachusetts involving an elderly driver in the past month - have sparked calls on Beacon Hill for laws regulating elderly drivers. But a review of state and national data shows that elderly drivers account for a smaller percentage of accidents than other age groups. "We need to avoid any knee-jerk reaction to the recent news reports," said Rachel Kaprielian, registrar of the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Last year, while Massachusetts drivers age 75 or older constituted more than 7 percent of those holding licenses, they accounted for 3.6 percent of all crashes, according to the latest data available from the Registry. Drivers age 75 or older were involved in about 7,000 crashes out of more than 200,000 - 18 percent fewer than in 2004. State data do not include blame, so it's not clear how many elderly drivers caused crashes. In the past four years, the percentage of crashes involving elderly drivers has remained consistent at about 3.5 percent of all auto accidents in Massachusetts. The percentage of elderly drivers killed in crashes, however, has been slightly higher, but the numbers are still relatively small, averaging about 38 deaths a year. Last year, nearly 8 percent of the 451 fatal crashes in the state involved a driver age 75 or older, compared with less than 4 percent of more than 57,000 nonfatal crashes and 142,000 crashes that resulted in property damage. State officials said the higher percentage of fatal crashes can be attributed to the greater likelihood an elderly person will not survive a crash. Kaprielian said "an elderly person in the same crash as a younger person is more likely to die because they're more frail." Despite the statistics, she and others argue that changes in driving laws, such as testing proficiency more often, are necessary to cope with an aging population. The US Census Bureau projects that the population of those age 65 or older will more than double between 2000 and 2050, from 35 million people to 87 million people, and will account for more than 21 percent of Americans. But nationally, the percentage of crashes involving elderly drivers is decreasing, according to a study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, a Virginia-based nonprofit group that studies automobile crashes. Between 1997 and 2006, the group found that crash deaths among drivers age 70 or older fell 21 percent, even as the population of people 70 or older grew 10 percent. There were more than 20 million licensed drivers 70 or older in 2006, compared with less than 18 million in 1997. During the same period, the group found fatal crashes among all drivers declined 4 percent; among drivers age 35 to 54, the decline was 2 percent. "No matter how you slice the numbers, the older driver crash problem is improving," said Russ Rader, a spokesman for the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. "There isn't much evidence that elderly drivers are a big menace to other people on the road." "In fatal crashes of drivers 75 and older, the drivers and their elderly passengers were much more likely to be killed than were the occupants of other vehicles," he added. "Looking at per-licensed-driver rates, drivers in the 30- to 59-year-old category are much more likely to kill other motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists than elderly drivers." The US Government Accountability Office reached similar conclusions. In a report released two years ago, GAO investigators found that "the rate of older driver involvement in fatal crashes . . . measured on the basis of licensed drivers, has decreased and, overall, older drivers have a lower rate of fatal crashes than drivers in younger age groups." The GAO noted that the crash rate for elderly drivers is lower than the rates for younger drivers, in part because they log fewer miles per year than younger drivers. They also noted that many elderly drivers hold licenses even though they no longer drive and often avoid getting behind the wheel at night and during rush hour, when crashes tend to occur. They also found that intersections pose more of a problem for the elderly. In 2004, drivers age 65 or older accounted for 37 percent of fatal crashes at intersections, compared with 18 percent for drivers age 26 to 64. And on the basis of miles driven, which the state doesn't track, the GAO found that drivers age 75 or older are more likely than all other drivers to be involved in a fatal crash. The GAO report did not track nonfatal crashes. "In a lot of ways, the data depends on how you look at them," said Beth Dugan, an associate professor of gerontology at the University of Massachusetts at Boston who serves as spokeswoman for Safe Roads Now, which has urged state lawmakers to overhaul driving laws for the elderly. "This is not a crisis as the recent events have made them seem, but we need to reform the system." Unlike more than half the states in the country, Massachusetts has no special licensing requirements for elderly drivers. State officials and others have urged lawmakers to consider several options that could reduce the risks of elderly drivers causing damage because of failing eyesight or slowed reflexes. Among those options are requiring in-person, more frequent license renewals for the elderly, vision tests, and driving tests. They might also follow the lead of other states. Oregon, for example, requires physicians and other medical providers to report drivers with impairments that affect a person's ability to drive safely. Maryland has a medical advisory board that screens thousands of elderly residents to determine their fitness to drive. And Iowa issues some older drivers restricted licenses that limit their driving to daylight hours, specific neighborhoods, or low-speed roads. AAA Southern New England has urged lawmakers to support a bill that would provide immunity to doctors who report to the state patients who are medically impaired and incapable of driving safely. The reports would trigger screening. Another bill would require drivers age 85 or older to undergo vision and road tests every five years. "This is certainly a real, true, deep concern for us," said Mary Maguire, a spokeswoman for AAA Southern New England. "We think that accurate and useful assessment tools are needed to try to determine whether there's a level of impairment, at any age." *David Abel can be reached at dabel@globe.com.*

MCOA Legislative Update: Health Care Debate

There has been much misinformation (intentional) about the proposed national health care plan. MCOA has tried to find relevant sources that accurately reflect the discussion down in D.C.

Talk Radio Campaign Frightening Seniors

Provision for End-of-Life Counseling Is Described by Right as 'Death Care'

By Ceci Connolly, Washington Post Staff Writer, Saturday, August 1, 2009

A campaign on conservative talk radio, fueled by President Obama's calls to control exorbitant medical bills, has sparked fear among senior citizens that the health-care bill moving through Congress will lead to end-of-life "rationing" and even "euthanasia." The controversy stems from a proposal to pay physicians who counsel elderly or terminally ill patients about what medical interventions they would prefer near the end of life and how to prepare instructions such as living wills. Under the plan, Medicare would reimburse doctors for one session every five years to confer with a patient about his or her wishes and how to ensure those preferences are followed. The counseling sessions would be voluntary. But on right-leaning radio programs, religious e-mail lists and Internet blogs, the proposal has been described as "guiding you in how to die," "an ORDER from the Government to end your life," promoting "death care" and, in the words of antiabortion leader Randall Terry, an attempt to "kill Granny." Though the counseling provision is a tiny part of a behemoth bill, the skirmish over end-of-life care, like arguments about abortion coverage, has become a distraction and provided an opening for opponents of the president's broader health-care agenda. At a forum sponsored by the seniors group AARP that was intended to pitch comprehensive reform, Obama was asked about the "rumors." He used the question to promote living wills, noting that he and the first lady have them. Democratic strategists privately acknowledged that they were hesitant to give extra attention to the issue by refuting the inaccuracies, but they worry that it will further agitate already-skeptical seniors. The side battle also undercuts what many say is the more fundamental challenge of discussing sensitive, costly societal questions about how to align patient wishes at the end of life with financial realities, for both the family and taxpayers. "I don't think it's about cutting costs; it's about quality," said Tia Powell, director of the Montefiore-Einstein Center for Bioethics. Pointing to extensive research, she said: "The good news is if you get people in an environment that is of their choosing, where there is support and they have good pain control, it is very likely to extend their life." Not since 2003, when Congress and President George W. Bush became involved in the case of Terri Schiavo, who lay in a vegetative state in a hospice in Florida, have lawmakers waded into the highly charged subject, said Howard Brody, director of an ethics institute at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. The attacks on talk radio began when Betsy McCaughey, who helped defeat President Bill Clinton's health-care overhaul 16 years ago, told former senator Fred D. Thompson (R-Tenn.) that mandatory counseling sessions with Medicare beneficiaries would "tell them how to end their life sooner" and would teach the elderly how to "decline nutrition . . . and cut your life short." House [Minority Leader John A. Boehner](#) (R-Ohio) and Republican Policy Committee Chairman [Thaddeus McCotter](#) (Mich.) said they object to the idea because it "may start us down a treacherous path toward government-encouraged euthanasia." Brody says the proposal to reimburse counseling sessions "is an excellent idea," because too few doctors or adult children know what an elderly person wants, even sometimes when the patient has signed a medical directive. About one-third of Americans have living wills or a document designating a health-care proxy who would make decisions if they become incapacitated, said Barbara Coombs Lee, president of Compassion & Choices, a nonprofit group that focuses on the rights of the terminally ill. "But it's alarming how rarely they actually get honored because often doctors haven't familiarized themselves with the patient's wishes," she said. Wesley Smith, an attorney for the International Task Force on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide, said Obama's focus on controlling costs and the legalese in the bill have contributed to the confusion. "People fear these counseling sessions will push toward less care because the point is to cut costs," he said. The average cost of care for a chronically ill Medicare patient in the final six months of life is \$46,400, according to Dartmouth University data. The emphasis on cost containment means "you'll end up with denial of care for the elderly," said Charmaine Yoes, president of Americans United for Life, who also testified against the Supreme Court nomination of Sonia Sotomayor. Possible abortion coverage and end-of-life care in the health bill will be "a watershed battle for the life community." In the past two weeks, AARP has fielded a few thousand calls from people who mistakenly think the legislation would require every Medicare recipient to "choose how they want to die," said James Dau, a spokesman for the organization. Though he is "willing to give the benefit of the doubt" to some who may be confused, Dau complained that the effort to "intentionally distort" the proposal "is just plain cruel to anyone who is forced to make one of these difficult decisions at the end of life." The American Medical Association, which supports the provision, has received similar inquiries and protests from patients who fear doctors will begin denying care late in life. "These are important discussions everyone should have when they are healthy and not entering a hospital, so they are fully informed and can make their wishes known," said association President J. James Rohack. "That's not controversial; it's plain, old-fashioned patient-centered care." After letting the controversy simmer on talk radio and the blogosphere, expecting that it might blow over, Democrats have begun to respond. The allegations of mandatory counseling and euthanasia "are blatantly false," [Reps. Earl Blumenauer](#) (D-Ore.) and [Sander M. Levin](#) (D-Mich.) wrote colleagues. The accusations are "as offensive as they are untrue."

David Frum (a noted conservative columnist): "It's not enough for conservatives to repudiate violence, as some are belatedly beginning to do. We have to tone down the militant and accusatory rhetoric. If Barack Obama really were a fascist, really were a Nazi, really did plan death panels to kill the old and infirm, really did contemplate overthrowing the American constitutional republic -- if he were those things, somebody should shoot him. But he is not. He is an ambitious, liberal president who is spending too much money and emitting too much debt. His health-care ideas are too ambitious and his climate plans are too interventionist. The president can be met and bested on the field of reason -- but only by people who are themselves reasonable."

MCOA Legislative Update: Health Care Debate: continued

Health care reform scare campaign targets seniors

BY [DAVID EDWARDS AND MURIEL KANE](#) Published: August 12, 2009

A group called 60 Plus has been attempting to convince senior citizens that national health care reform will require \$500 billion in cuts to Medicare and result in denial of life-saving procedures.

“This is a group that claims to represent seniors,” MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow explained on Tuesday. “The way they have chosen to represent seniors in this particular fight is to try to scare seniors into thinking their government wants to kill them.” According to Maddow, “There’s now a million and a half dollar nationwide TV ad buy for ... an ad that says the government will decide whether old people are ‘worth the cost.’” 60 Plus has even distributed a [mailing](#) which includes an out-of-context quote from President Obama saying, “Maybe you’re better off not having the surgery, but taking the painkiller.” John Rother, a vice president at the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) agreed with Maddow that “seniors are the target of a very intentional scare campaign.” “It certainly makes me angry,” Rother commented. “To scare people, to raise these bogus issues, to intentionally mislead a big part of the population, is a subversion of democracy.” A few years ago, AARP hired an investigator who [looked into](#) 60 Plus and found that it was being used as a front by the pharmaceutical industry during the 2002-03 push for a Medicare drug benefit. 60 Plus also had long-standing ties to the Bush administration. According to a 2002 [article](#) in the *American Prospect*, “The smaller 60 Plus Association, which is handling the radio spots, is run by James Martin, a retired Marine whose postmilitary career includes stints at the National Conservative Political Action Committee and Americans Against Union Control of Government. He claims to have given President George W. Bush his first job out of college: working on a Florida Senate campaign.” The 60 Plus website features a photo of Martin [chatting](#) with Karl Rove in 2003. During the Bush administration’s push for Social Security privatization in 2005, representatives of the group were [invited](#) to meet with Rove, along with those of the Business Roundtable and the Mortgage Bankers Association. This video is from MSNBC’s *The Rachel Maddow Show*, broadcast Aug. 11, 2009.

Two Articles forwarded from Paul J. Lanzikos Executive Director North Shore Elder Services

1. Doctors Providing End-Of-Life Counseling See Benefit In Current Controversy [Aug 14, 2009]

[Kaiser Health News](#) reports on a House provision buried deep within its sweeping health reform bill, saying it may "appear innocuous" but has "ignited a firestorm among critics predicting government-sponsored euthanasia. The controversy, over proposed Medicare funding of end-of-life counseling, has come to epitomize some of people's deepest fears about the government's role in health care" (Marcy, 8/14).

Go to <http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Stories/2009/August/14/end-of-life-care.aspx> for complete story

2. What the House Bill Says About End-Of-Life Care [Aug 14, 2009]

[KHN](#) reports on the actual language fueling "the furious controversy" over Medicare funding of for end-of-life care conversations. It "stems from Section 1233 in the health bill passed by three House committees." (Steadman, 8/14).

Go to <http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Stories/2009/August/14/section1233.aspx> for complete story

MCOA Legislative Update: Health Care Debate: continued

Newsweek FACTCHECK.ORG

Seven Falsehoods About Health Care Big myths about the current debate

By Brooks Jackson, Viveca Novak, Lori Robertson and Jess Henig | factcheck.org Aug 14, 2009

Summary

So much for a slow news month. August feels like campaign season, with claims on health care coming at us daily. Does the House bill call for mandatory counseling on how to end seniors' lives sooner? Absolutely not. Will the government be dictating to doctors how to treat their patients? No. Do the bills propose cutting Medicare benefit levels? No on that one, too. But on the other hand, has Congress figured out how to pay for this overhaul? Not yet. Or will it really save families \$2,500 a year as the president keeps claiming? Good luck on that one, too. In this article we offer a run-down of seven falsehoods we've taken on recently, with some additional updating and research thrown in.

Analysis

False: Government Will Decide What Care I Get (a.k.a. they won't give grandma a hip replacement)

This untrue claim has its roots in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the stimulus bill), which called for the creation of a Federal Coordinating Council for Comparative Effectiveness Research. The council is charged with supporting and coordinating research that the government has been funding for years into which treatments work best, and in some cases, are most cost-effective. Supporters of this type of research say it can provide valuable information to doctors, improving care and also lowering cost. Betsy McCaughey, a former Republican lieutenant governor of New York (and now a professing Democrat), wrote in an opinion piece that the government would actually tell doctors what procedures they could and couldn't perform. The claim took off from there, popping up in chain e-mails and Republican press conferences. It's not true. The legislation specifically says that the council can't issue requirements or guidelines on treatment or insurance benefits:

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 : Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit the Council to mandate coverage, reimbursement, or other policies for any public or private payer. ... None of the reports submitted under this section or recommendations made by the Council shall be construed as mandates or clinical guidelines for payment, coverage, or treatment.

As for the health care bills themselves, the House's **H.R. 3200** sets up a center to conduct and gather such research within the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, an entity the CBO called "the most prominent federal agency supporting various types of research on the comparative effectiveness of medical treatments." Like the stimulus legislation, the bill states that: "Nothing in this section shall be construed to permit the Commission or the Center to mandate coverage, reimbursement, or other policies for any public or private payer." The **Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee bill** (not yet released in its entirety) calls for a similar center that "will promote health outcomes research and evaluation that enables patients and providers to identify which therapies work best for most people and to effectively identify where more personalized approaches to care are necessary for others," according to the summary of the bill. This claim also stems from a fear that the U.S. will institute a system like that of the U.K., where the government provides and pays for health care. But none of the bills now being debated in Congress call for such a system, and the president has said he doesn't want nationalized or single-payer health care, as we've said **several times**. For more, see: "**Doctor's Orders?**" Feb. 20 "**Government-Run Health Care?**" April 30

False: The Bill Is Paid For At least, it isn't paid for yet.

President Obama has repeatedly said that a health care overhaul "will be paid for" and that he won't sign a bill that isn't deficit-neutral. But neither the House bill nor the Senate HELP Committee bill meets that criteria. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office and Joint Committee on Taxation, the House bill as introduced would add a net **\$239 billion** over 10 years to the deficit, while the HELP Committee bill racks up more, **\$597 billion** over 10 years. Obama has also said he has "identified two-thirds of those costs to be paid for by tax dollars that are already being spent right now." But "identified" is the operative word. These savings are estimates and whether around \$650 billion (about two-thirds of the cost of health care over 10 years) can be saved remains to be seen. Most of the money would come from Medicare, but cuts in payments to insurers and practitioners aren't popular measures that move easily through Congress. So the big questions remain. Will the president break his promise and sign a bill that piles up hundreds of billions of additional debt? Will the legislation have to be scaled back to cost less, and perhaps cover fewer of the uninsured? Who will pay additional taxes? Can pain-free reductions in other government programs be found? "**Obama's Health Care News Conference,**" July 23

MCOA Legislative Update: Health Care Debate: continued

Newsweek FACTCHECK.ORG

False: Private Insurance Will Be Illegal

In July, Investor's Business Daily published an editorial in which it claimed that H.R. 3200 would make private insurance illegal. But IBD was mistaken. It was citing the part of the bill that ensures people with individually purchased coverage don't have to give up that coverage unless they want to. Under the House bill, people who want to buy new individual, non-group coverage will have to purchase it through a new health insurance exchange. They can still buy private insurance – the exchange, in fact, would offer a range of private plans, in addition to a new federal health insurance option. However, those who were already buying their own insurance before the bill went into effect – about 14 million Americans – will have their plans grandfathered in. The part of the bill IBD cites doesn't forbid insurers from issuing new plans. It says that new individual plans will not be considered grandfathered, and will have to be purchased through the exchange. **"Private Insurance Not Outlawed"** Aug. 13

False: The House Bill Requires Suicide Counseling

This claim is nonsense. In an appearance on former Sen. Fred Thompson's radio show, McCaughey also enthusiastically pushed the bogus claim that the House bill will require seniors to have regular counseling sessions on how to end their lives: **McCaughey, July 16:** *The Congress would make it mandatory ... that every five years, people in Medicare have a required counseling session that will tell them how to end their life sooner, how to decline nutrition, how to decline being hydrated, how to go into hospice care ... all to do what's in society's best interest ... and cut your life short.* This is a misrepresentation. What the bill actually provides for is voluntary Medicare-funded end-of-life counseling. In other words, if seniors choose to make advance decisions about the type of care and treatments they wish to receive at the end of their lives, Medicare will pay for them to sit down with their doctor and discuss their preferences. There is no requirement to attend regular sessions, and there is absolutely no provision encouraging euthanasia. Of course, seniors who talk to their doctors about end-of-life care might well choose to discuss what types of life-saving treatment they wish to refuse. That choice has been federally guaranteed for almost 20 years. Euthanasia, on the other hand, is legal in only three states, making it even more unlikely to be a major part of the federal health plan. **"False Euthanasia Claims,"** July 29

False: Families Will Save \$2,500

Proponents speak constantly of holding down rising medical costs. As recently as May 13, the president said legislation plus some voluntary measures by the private sector **"could save families \$2,500 in the coming years – \$2,500 per family,"** echoing a claim he made countless times on the campaign trail last year. Don't start spending that \$2,500 just yet. For one thing, Obama isn't actually promising to reduce health care spending below current levels, only to cut the rate of growth in spending. And even that is proving to be far tougher to accomplish than Obama led voters to believe. We've already mentioned that the Congressional Budget Office says "savings" in Medicare spending resulting from the House bill would fall short of what is needed to pay for two-thirds of its cost, which is Obama's goal. And those savings come only in what the government pays, not in what families pay. Squeezing more savings, even from Medicare, is proving difficult. On July 17, Obama's lead man on the subject, Office of Management and Budget Director Peter Orszag, **wrote to congressional leaders** seeking legislation setting up an independent agency, the Independent Medicare Advisory Council (IMAC). It would be made up of health care experts with the power to make a package of annual changes in the amounts Medicare would pay to doctors. The president must either approve or disapprove the entire package as offered; if he approves, it goes into effect unless Congress passes a joint resolution stopping it. But when CBO took a look, it estimated that the new agency would save a total of only \$2 billion over the next decade. As for saving \$2,500 for families, as opposed to saving money for the government, the CBO's letter, signed by Director Douglas W. Elmendorf, said: **CBO:** *[E]xperts generally agree that changes in government policy have the potential to significantly reduce health care spending—for the nation as a whole and for the federal government in particular—without harming people's health. However, achieving large reductions in projected spending would require fundamental changes in the financing and delivery of health care.* As an example of the "fundamental" changes that might do the trick: CBO suggested moving away from the current system of paying doctors and hospitals for performing medical procedures and paying them instead a fixed fee per patient or some other payment based on "value." Another CBO suggestion: "higher cost-sharing requirements." So far we don't see those ideas in the bills being considered.

False: Medicare Benefits Will Be Slashed

The claim that Obama and Congress are cutting seniors' Medicare benefits to pay for the health care overhaul is outright false, though that doesn't keep it from being repeated ad infinitum. The truth is that the pending House bill extracts \$500 billion from projected Medicare spending over 10 years, as scored by the **Congressional Budget Office**, by doing such things as trimming projected increases in the program's payments for medical services, not including physicians. Increases in other areas, such as payments to doctors, bring the net savings down to less than half that amount. But none of the predicted savings – or cuts, depending on one's perspective – come from reducing current or future benefits for seniors. The president has promised repeatedly that benefit levels won't be reduced, **reiterating the point recently in Portsmouth, N.H.:** **Obama, Aug. 11:** *Another myth that we've been hearing about is this notion that*

MCOA Legislative Update: Health Care Debate: continued

Newsweek FACTCHECK.ORG

somehow we're going to be cutting your Medicare benefits. We are not. Is he wrong? Not according to AARP, by far the nation's largest organization representing the over-50 population. In a "**Myths vs. Facts**" rundown, AARP says: **AARP: Fact: None of the health care reform proposals being considered by Congress would cut Medicare benefits or increase your out-of-pocket costs for Medicare services.** To be sure, Obama hasn't always thought that Medicare "savings" could be accomplished without actual cuts in benefits. Last fall, his campaign ran **two television ads** accusing Sen. John McCain of wanting "a 22 percent cut in [Medicare] benefits." The basis for the ads was a newspaper article in which a McCain aide said the Arizona Republican would cut Medicare costs. But the aide said nothing about cutting benefits, in fact quite the contrary. We called the claim "false" when Obama made it against McCain, and it's still false now when Obama's critics are making the same accusation against him.

False: Illegal Immigrants Will Be Covered

One Republican congressman issued a press release claiming that "**5,600,000 Illegal Aliens May Be Covered Under Obamacare**," and we've been peppered with queries about similar claims. They're not true. In fact, the House bill (the only bill to be formally introduced in its entirety) specifically says that no federal money would be spent on giving illegal immigrants health coverage: **H.R. 3200: Sec 246 — NO FEDERAL PAYMENT FOR UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS** *Nothing in this subtitle shall allow Federal payments for affordability credits on behalf of individuals who are not lawfully present in the United States.* Also, under current law, those in the country illegal don't qualify for federal health programs. Of interest: About half of illegal immigrants have health insurance now, according to the nonpartisan Pew Hispanic Center, which says those who lack insurance do so principally because their employers don't offer it. "**Misleading GOP Health Care Claims**" July 23

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"It's Not an Option." Editorial. Investor's Business Daily. 15 Jul 2009.

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Find this article at <http://www.newsweek.com/id/211981> © 2009

Thank you Campaign: Reminder

In a year like this it is critically important to publicly thank your legislators and the Governor for their support of Line Item #9110-9002 – Local Aid to Councils on Aging.

This is the time to:

- Conduct a thank you letter-writing campaign party at your senior center;
- Invite your legislators to your summer picnic or ice cream socials and publicly thank them;
- Add a feature article in your summer/fall newsletter thanking all involved and stating how the formula grant is spent in your town;
- Send a letter to the editor of your local paper thanking and detailing how the grant will be spent;
- During the public comment period of your Selectboard meeting, stand up and speak out – publicly thanking all involved;
- If you operate a cable show, ask your legislators to be a guest and talk about the difficult budget year, and then publicly thank them for their efforts;
- Produce a 'big check' with your Formula Grant amount on it and stage a photo op for the local newspaper with your legislators. Put the picture in your monthly newsletter
- If you have a town chat room, make sure you mention your gratitude on it;
- Have your board send a thank you note sign by all; **and/or**
- Collect signatures on a petition saying thank-you

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Sept 15, 2009

Everything you need is at www.mcoonline.com

- Hotel Reservation Form
- Conference Registration material including Bulletin and Checklist
- Conference Schedule and Menus. Hotel Layout Map
- Remember to try Online Registration to Save Money and Time
- Also Volunteer with MCOA Leadership – see Call for Participation &
- Send your Nominations for MCOA Annual Awards

If you need a hard copy mailed, call MCOA at 413.527.6425

Wednesday Highlights: include Gov. Patrick (invited) and Secretaries Bigby and Hartstein confirmed

Thursday Highlights: “Secretaries from 4 New England States” with 4 State Association Presidents

Wednesday Social: Country Picnic by the lake

Thursday’s Dinner Dance: Halloween Ball

Check out MCOA Conference Bulletin at www.mcoonline.com New Workshops added weekly!

2009 On-Line Registration is now available at www.mcoonline.com

The Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging and Senior Center Directors is coordinating our 30th annual fall conference – “*Councils on Aging: Your Community Connection*” on October 7-9, 2009 at the Sturbridge Host & Conference Center on Cedar Lake in Sturbridge, MA. We are planning over 80 workshops to reach the diverse needs of our attendees who will include COA and Senior Center directors, board members, outreach workers, program managers, volunteer coordinators, social workers, nurses, case managers, government employees, transportation coordinators, elected officials, administrators, advocates, lawyers, nursing home, assisted living staff, and older adults.

Member Rate*	MCOA 2009 Fall Conference	Non-Member
\$360	Complete Conference 3-Day Package (Wednesday Reception & Thursday Annual Dinner)	\$540
\$300	Three-Day Workshop Only Package (Breakfast & Lunch)	\$450
\$115	Wednesday Only (Breakfast & Lunch)	\$175
\$115	Thursday Only (Breakfast & Lunch)	\$175
\$100	Friday Only (Breakfast & Lunch)	\$150
\$20	Wednesday Welcome Reception	\$30
\$50	Thursday Annual Dinner Meeting	\$75

The complete *Registration Kit* can be found at www.mcoonline.com

MCOA Briefs: Reminder

MCOA Going Paperless: For Some Your Last MCOANews (hard copy)

We have already informed our members that on July 1st MCOA will begin our transition to paperless. In order to go GREEN and save money on copying and postage, most communications will be posted on our website www.mcoonline.com Members will be notified of new postings by email. We have already begun:

- MCOA Briefs has begun a weekly distribution on Friday’s. ‘Business’ needing immediate attention will still be sent as needed, but we are trying to combined most circulations into this weekly format. Only Members will receive this notification.
- MCOANews will continue as a monthly providing more detailed information on job postings, UpComing Events, Legislative Updates, Resources You Can Use and Transitions. The ‘current issue’ will only be available to members via a password. Back Editions are always available online.
- Fall Conferenece: planning for our fall conference has already begun. and the hotel reservation form and the Sponsor Exhibitor Information has already been posted at www.mcoonline.com We are not planning on mailing a registration packet for the fall conference. At registration material will be posted online by July 15th. A postcard reminder will be mailed. Members requiring a hard copy can call 413.527.6425 and ask for a registration package after July 15th.
- MCOA recognizes that not all members will have access to the web and we are currently completing a survey to ascertain who is capable and who is not. In addition, the survey allows you to list additional email address of staff or board members that you want notified of postings. Those who indicate that cannot access the wb will still receive all mailings as long as they have paid their dues in the past and plan to do so in FY10.

More details to follow as we work out the kinks- Suggestions are welcome!

MCOA Awards 2009

A Call for Nominations

Submit your nomination and any supplemental material by September 4, 2009

- Nominate someone from a COA/Senior Center

MCOA Director of the Year,

whom you feel achieves, articulates, brings together, exemplifies by leadership in the field of aging as well in senior center development, operations, and marketing.

- Nominate an individual or group for

MCOA Advocate of the Year,

whom you feel by the way of message, achievement, legislation, coalition-building, speaking up for seniors, helping seniors to speak up, courage, patience, and persistence, has helped seniors find empowerment, enrichment and fulfillment. P.S. When appropriate, this award can be referred to as the MCOA Legislative Advocate of the Year Award.

- Nominate an individual or group for

MCOA Innovator of the Year Award,

whom you feel has come up with an idea or design, invention or variation, a program or service or a model that might help senior centers serve seniors and their families according to need, compatible with dreams, and adaptable in other communities.

Submit by September 4, 2009

Be sure to include this basic information below and augment as you see necessary.

MCOA 2008 Awards Nomination Form

I, _____ from _____

nominate _____ from _____ for the MCOA 's

_____ of the year Award. I believe he/she/they deserve(s) this award because:

Supplement this application with any appropriate materials you deem necessary including a one-page summary of why this individual or organization should be considered for this award you have specified.

Mail nomination to: MCOA 116 Pleasant Street, Room 306, Easthampton MA , 01027
or Fax to 413.527.7138 Thank you for you time with this matter.

MCOA Member Request

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — Casework/Outreach Reporting?

The City of Attleboro has requested that all Outreach/Case Managers document when they report for work, leave for appointments and return, and the destination of the appointment. If any of the Councils on Aging/Senior Centers has a policy and/or procedure regarding this practice in place I would appreciate a copy. Also, any comments as to why they would not have implemented such a policy would also be appreciated. Responses can be emailed to me a coaad@cityofattleboro.us or faxed at 508.222.2581. Thank you. Madeleine McNielly, Director, Attleboro Council on Aging (21 Aug)

MCOA Briefs: For our Members — Kiosk Questionnaire on Lifelong Learning

In August, 2008, the Executive Office of Elder Affairs formed a new coalition, the **Massachusetts Partnership for Promoting the Civic Engagement and Employment of Older Adults**, to work with the National Governors' Academy (NGA) for Civic Engagement to spur more employers to recruit and retain older adult workers and to improve the ways community agencies recruit, develop and utilize older adult volunteers. To achieve these goals, we will implement a comprehensive strategy to increase the engagement of older adults in employment and civic life, provide information regarding lifelong learning opportunities and build a more robust volunteer recruitment and management system. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

The portion of the kiosk that we are currently building has to do with Lifelong Learning. (DEFINITION: Lifelong learning, also known as LLL, is the "lifelong, life-wide, voluntary, and self-motivated" pursuit of knowledge for either personal or professional reasons. As such, it not only enhances social inclusion, active citizenship and personal development, but also competitiveness and employability. The term recognizes that learning is not confined to childhood or the classroom, but takes place throughout life and in a range of situations.) **Please complete the following questionnaire regarding lifelong learning opportunities in your community** and return it to Joanne Moore, Duxbury COA at joannemoore@duxburycoa.com by SEPTEMBER 15, 2009. Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact Joanne Moore at 781-934-5774 x 102 if you have any questions. (14 Aug)

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — Cell Phone Policy for Van/Bus Drivers?

Does any center have a 'cell phone' policy in place for their van or bus drivers? With the recent problems I thought the time is ripe for some rules. Thanks, John Magnani, jmagnani@falmouthmass.us

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — Acupuncture Programs?

I have a question I would like to ask other COA's.... Do you offer Acupuncture? How often? What is the cost? If you don't offer it why? Do you have the Board of Health Approval? Does your town's insurance cover the liability? Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Joanne Moore, Duxbury COA, 781-934-5774 x 102 joannemoore@duxburycoa.com (31 July)

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — Veterans Social/Support Programs?

Hi, Will you please email me if you have a veterans' (social/support) program at your senior center? Thank you, Dawn. Dawn Folopoulos, Elder/Human Services Administrator, Town of Reading, 16 Lowell Street - Reading, MA 01867 — Phone: 781-942-6658 — Fax: 781-942-9071 (31 July)

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — ServTracker Scheduling adaptation

At our Center for many years, our senior center programs offered by appointment were hand written; statistics manually tabulated. Now, our programs that require appointments (AARP Tax Aide, Legal, Financial, Podiatrist, SHINE, etc) are on Excel. Eventually, we purchased SERVtracker, but as yet they don't have a component designed for scheduling (other than classes). If you have SERVtracker, and you have adapted it for scheduling appt. please let me know how. If on the other hand you continue to manually create appt schedules, and tabulate the statistics for the Annual EOEA report manually or by another method, I would appreciate hearing about that. You can contact me at ldemattia@bellinghamma.org — Thank you for your help. Laura DeMattia, Director, Bellingham Senior Center, 40 Blackstone Street, Bellingham, MA 02019 (24 July)

MCOA Member Request continued

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — Emergency Preparedness for Elders

I am looking for policy & procedures and sample documents that councils are using for Emergency Preparedness i.e. seniors who need special assistance in an emergency. Can you assist me? Thanks. Madeleine McNielly, Director, Attleboro COA, 25 South Main St., Attleboro, MA 02703 — 508-223-2235 — 508-222-2581 (fax) — email: coa@cityofattleboro.us (24 July)

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — Senior Tax Workoff Information

Due to budget restraints, our COA is adjusting the Senior Tax Work-off Program by reducing the amount of participants from 40 to 20 and adding income guidelines. I need to know:

1. population of your town
2. # of senior citizens
3. your town's income guidelines for this program (single and/or married)
4. do your participants show proof of their income?

If your town participates in this program, please forward your information to elaine.kingston@townofcharlton.net. Thanks for your help. Elaine Kingston, Director, Council on Aging/Senior Center, 37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507 — Tel. 508-248-2231 — Fax. 508-248-2379 (17 July)

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — Wii Popularity at Senior Centers?

Good Morning. At the North Adams COA we have a participant who wants to purchase a Wii for the Senior Center. I am interested to know how popular they are at centers and which packages were purchased, also if there is needs to be a leader or activity person to help out? Thanks, Sandy Lamb, Executive Director, North Adams CoA, 413-662-3125, Fax: 413-664-8535 — spitzercntr@yahoo.com

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — Banjo player or Bluegrass group?

Help...I am looking for a banjo player or bluegrass type of group to perform at an outdoor function at the end of the summer. I haven't had much luck and wondering if anyone has a name of an entertainer? Thanks ! Jodi Ahern, Ludlow COA jahern@ludlow.ma.us (17 July)

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — PT Custodian job description

If anyone has a part time Custodian job description that they would be willing to share, I would really appreciate it if it could be faxed to Bellingham Senior Center — 508-966-5843

Or emailed to Laura DeMattia, Director, Bellingham Senior Center — ldemattia@bellinghamma.org

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — Senior Advocate job description

I'm looking for a job description for a Senior Advocate. If anyone can email to me that would be great. Thank you. Tracy M. Nowicki, Director, City of Chelsea Elder Affairs, 10 Riley Way, Chelsea, MA 02150 — 617-466-4370 (w) — 617-466-4379 (f)

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — Info on Friends Groups

The Westfield Council On Aging Board of Directors is seeking information on starting a "Friends" group. They are most concerned with pitfalls to avoid in starting such a group. Please send words of wisdom to Tina Gorman, Interim Director at t.gorman@cityofwestfield.org

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — Renting a Large Activity Room

The Hanover COA may be interested in renting out our large activity room when we move in. If any COA does this, could you tell me what you charge and if you charge town departments. Any problems doing so? Is an insurance rider requested from the renters? Any information would be helpful. Thanks. Robyn Mitton — coa@hanover-ma.gov (17 July)

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry — "The Memory Project" My name is Sara Alfaro-Franco and I work with John Jope on his cable access show "Golden Opportunities" in Arlington, MA. I am working on a documentary that focuses on individuals experiencing memory loss. I'm actively looking for individuals and families willing to participate. I would like to post the project flyer on Council on Aging offices in the New England area. "The Memory Project" Flyer — <http://www.mcoonline.com/content/consumer/index.php> Sara Alfaro-Franco at: 781-643-0895 or malta123@att.net (17 July)



Seeking Community Grant Reviewers!



The Massachusetts Service Alliance (MSA) is recruiting individuals to serve as community grant reviewers for the 2010-2011 AmeriCorps grant.

Community Grant Reviewers *Enriching the Process!*

Community grant reviewers are critical to the integrity of MSA's grant-making process by ensuring that public funds are invested in high quality programs through an equitable and transparent process.

Grant reviewers are recruited from all sectors and represent the interests, needs, and priorities of Massachusetts' diverse population.

Why volunteer as a community grant reviewer?

- Let your voice be heard! Participate in a decision-making process that will improve the lives of thousands of individuals across the Commonwealth.
- Gain valuable insight into the grant application and review process.
- Learn more about new service programs that are being proposed to address societal needs.
- Network with civic leaders and fellow community members.

Although no prior grant review experience is necessary, preference will be given to reviewers with knowledge of AmeriCorps and/or national service programs.

Grant Reviewer Commitment:

- Participate in a phone conference training on either **Wednesday, September 9th, 2:00-3:30pm** or **Thursday, September 10th, 10:30am-12:00pm**.
- Read 6-8 proposals of approximately 10 pages in length (est. 45 min/proposal).
- Score each proposal prior to the review day on the worksheets provided.
- Discuss the proposals with other reviewers during a half-day review session at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston on **Tuesday, September 29th, 9:30am**.

For more information or to register as a community grant reviewer, visit our [website](http://www.mass-service.org/get/volunteer.php) at <http://www.mass-service.org/get/volunteer.php>

*Training is required for first-time reviewers. Individuals affiliated with applicant organizations are not eligible to participate in the review. All reviewers will be asked to sign a conflict of interest certification form

Questions? Contact:

Lisa Frederick Program Team Leader (617) 542-2544 x226 lfrederick@mass-service.org

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MCOA Briefs: Transition

EOEA Transition

Marion Aspinall has been replaced by Cindy Phillips as the Director of SHINE.

New Directors

Lester Paquin replacing Marguerite W. Maki at the Barre COA

Heather Sylvia replacing William Contois at the Acushnet COA

Roberta Potter replacing Juanita (Bunny) Caldwell at the Gill & Montague COA

Robert Cameron replacing Roger Lander at the Essex COA

Rebecca Tillinghest is replacing Grace Zbell at the Great Barrington COA

Departures

Kim Manion has left the Plymouth COA

Cheryl Grenier has left the Truro COA

Bereavement

MCOA sends our condolences to Kathy Mull of the Carlisle COA who recently lost her father.

STATE CAPITOL BRIEFS (LUNCH EDITION) – MONDAY, AUG. 17, 2009
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

STATE MEDICAID DIRECTOR STEPPING DOWN: source State House News

The state's director of Medicaid, which provides care for more than 1 million Massachusetts residents, is leaving his post in a month. State officials confirmed Monday that Medicaid Director Tom Dehner was stepping down after a Health Care for All official posted it on the consumer group's blog Saturday. Brian Rosman, Health Care for All's research director, issued warm thanks to Tom Dehner, who Rosman says informed his staff he is leaving on Sept. 18. "Tom led MassHealth through some extraordinarily difficult challenges, including the negotiation of the last waiver renewal, implementation of health reform, and in the past year, a series of difficult budget cuts," Rosman wrote. Dehner's departure comes amid growing questions about the affordability of the state's landmark 2006 health care access law – 30,000 legal immigrants were informed last week they would be removed from the rolls of the state's subsidized insurance program Commonwealth Care. Dehner sits on the board of the state Connector Authority, which is responsible for overseeing implementing the 2006 law, which has seen the number of insured grow by nearly 430,000, and Massachusetts's rate of insured top 97 percent, the best in the nation. But legislative leaders have highlighted a need for additional cost control measures to ensure the law's sustainability. Before serving as Medicaid director, Dehner was the office's acting director from Jan. 2006 until July 2007. He previously served as deputy Medicaid director and was Chief of Staff for the state Division of Medical Assistance from 2003 to 2004. He was also the deputy general counsel for the Senate Committee on Ways and Means from 1999 to 2003.

HOUSE RECOGNIZES STATE'S OLDEST RESIDENT: source State House News

She retired from the U.S. Treasury Department in 1941. She graduated from Adams High School in 1918. And she enjoys traveling, game shows and playing the piano two days a week at a nursing home. She's 109-year-old Bennie Madigan of Cheshire and, according to a resolution adopted by the House Thursday morning, she is "believed to be the oldest resident of the Commonwealth." The resolution, sponsored by Rep. Denis Guyer (D-Dalton), calls for a copy to be sent to Madigan, whose 110th birthday is July 24. Madigan was born in 1899 in West Springfield and first moved to Cheshire in 1906.

Council Staff Member Receives National Award for Excellence in Problem Gambling Prevention

BOSTON, MA / NORTH BROOKFIELD, MA – The Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling is pleased to announce that Prevention Director, Jim Wuelfing, CPP-R, NRPP, a resident of North Brookfield, Massachusetts, has been awarded the National Council on Problem Gambling's (NCPG) "*Annual Prevention Award*." A dedicated member of the prevention field for the majority of his professional career, Jim has directed his knowledge and expertise specifically to problem gambling prevention for nearly 15 years. He has developed and strengthened effective prevention of problem gambling programming not only in Massachusetts, but across the country. For more information about Jim Wuelfing or the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling, please call 617-426-4554 or visit the [website](#).

Member Request: I Am Walking The 3-Day, 50 Mile Walk On Cape Cod Because I Can!

MS hits close to home. Two years ago right before Christmas I lost vision in my eye, the weird thing was my brother, Steve lost vision in his eye at the same time. He lives in Cleveland and I live in Plymouth, but in January of 2007, we were both diagnosed with MS. So far, we are the fortunate ones. With daily injections we have been able to keep the progression of this disease at bay. Unfortunately, not everyone is that lucky. Many individuals with MS face fatigue, numbness, balance and coordination problems, bladder dysfunction, vision problems, dizziness and vertigo, pain, cognitive issues and immobility. I hope you will support me and the WALK SOME MOORE team (*Joanne Moore, Maureen O'Malley, Julie Murphy, Linda Hayes, Kristen Golden and you are welcome to join us!*) with our fundraising efforts with a tax deductible donation. Any amount, great or small, helps to make a difference in the lives of people living with MS. I appreciate your support and look forward to letting you know how we do! With each step we walk, we are getting one step closer to a cure! Please support me as I make this trip September 11-13! Also pray for nice weather! Thank you! Love, Jo

To donate go to: http://main.nationalmssociety.org/site/TR?fr_id=4540&pg=pfnd

Type in: Joanne Moore (or team Walk some MOORE) and hit enter. And make a contribution! Any amount is greatly appreciated.

MCOA Briefs: Job Opportunity — Operation A.B.L.E. of Greater Boston, Inc.

: Director of Development

Summary: Operation A.B.L.E. of Greater Boston is celebrating its 27th year of providing employment and training services to mature workers 45 and older. Operation A.B.L.E. is funded through a variety of sources including government funding, United Way, corporations and foundations, fee-for-services and individual donations. The Director of Development will play a strategic role in expanding Operation A.B.L.E.'s fundraising program by strengthening existing funder relations, increasing major gift prospects, enhancing stewardship and communications with existing donors and identifying and cultivating new donor relationships. A.B.L.E. is looking for a seasoned Development Officer who will build a comprehensive development program with a focus on prospect development, donor cultivation and stewardship, major gifts and special events. The Development Officer will design and implement fund-raising campaigns using direct mail, personal solicitations, special events and appeals to philanthropic organizations. This is an exciting opportunity for an experienced fundraiser in the non-profit field to take Operation A.B.L.E. to a new level of private support. This is a senior management position that will work with the Executive Director and Board of Directors and report to the Executive Director.

Specific Responsibilities:

- Design a comprehensive development plan for the organization.
- Set annual fundraising goals and develop and implement strategies to meet goals. Will provide ongoing analysis of progress toward goals and make recommendations on any modifications to goals set.
- Conduct appropriate feasibility studies/needs assessment related to proposed new fundraising initiatives.
- Identify new donors, cultivate new and existing ones and provide appropriate stewardship.
- Solicit leadership gifts of \$10K+.
- Develop new gift giving programs and donor recognition programs.
- Increase fundraising capacity with individual donors, corporate and community constituents through special events, newsletter, board development, advisory/advocacy boards, website and other means.
- Oversee fundraising database and tracking and acknowledgement of all gifts.

Skills and Experience

1. Minimum of seven years of demonstrated fundraising success; ten years is more preferable.
2. College degree; an MBA or relevant degree is preferable.
3. Excellent communication skills, both written and oral.
4. Superb organizational skills with excellent attention to detail.
5. Excellent computer skills, particularly MS Word and Access skills.
6. Strong project management skills and the ability to handle multiple projects simultaneously.
7. Commitment to the organization's mission and programs.
8. Ability to handle confidential matters with discretion.
9. Ability to work well with and engage donors from all donor constituencies.

How To Apply

Please send cover letter and resume to: Joan Cirillo, Executive Director, Operation A.B.L.E. of Greater Boston, Inc., 131 Tremont Street, Suite #301, Boston, MA 02111 or by email: jcirillo@operationable.net. If applying by email, please type Director of Development in subject line.

MCOA Briefs: Job Opportunity — Town of Plymouth – COA Director

Town of Plymouth — Elder Affairs Director, Council on Aging

The Town of Plymouth (pop. 58,000) seeks qualified applicants for position of Elder Affairs Director. Responsible for professional, administrative and supervisory work in developing and implementing programs, in an effort to meet the social and emotional needs of the Town's elderly and provides support to the Board of Directors of the Council. Responsibilities also include preparing and managing budget and grant writing. Supervises, directs and coordinates the duties of all staff members and numerous volunteers, assigns work activities, conducts annual employee evaluations and recommends personnel actions.

Bachelor's Degree in a relevant field of social science; three years of progressively responsible experience in group adult programs; supervisory experience strongly preferred; or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Must be a Licensed Social Worker. Must have ability to develop effective and constructive working relationships with Town, State and Federal officials, the elderly, service providers and the general public.

Salary range \$52,872.07 - \$64,899.13, full benefit package, 37.5 hrs. per week.

Position open until suitable candidate chosen. Please send cover letter and resume to Town of Plymouth, Human Resources, 11 Lincoln Street, Plymouth MA 02360. AA/EOE (7 Aug)

MCOA Briefs: Job Opportunity — Town of Amesbury – COA Director

The Town of Amesbury is seeking a Council on Aging Director to oversee the development and implementation of programs, services, and activities that provide for the wellness and support of Amesbury seniors.

The Council on Aging Director is a member of the Health and Human Services Division and is responsible for Council on Aging programs and the Senior Center. The Director oversees one full-time employee and many volunteers.

Responsibilities include ensuring programs, activities and services meet the evolving needs of Amesbury's seniors, developing and managing the annual budget, managing daily operations of the Senior Center, seeking and administering grants, providing information and access to social service programs available to seniors, working closely with other departments and divisions, elected officials, community organizations, and citizens to provide a high quality service to seniors.

Full job description available at www.amesburyma.gov

Salary: \$50,000 - \$55,436 DOQ

Deadline to apply is Friday, August 21st. Please submit a cover letter and resume to amaralk@amesburyma.gov, subject title: "Amesbury Council on Aging Director"; or mail to Town of Amesbury, Attn: Kendra Amaral, Town Hall, 62 Friend Street, Amesbury, MA 01913.

MCOA Briefs: Job Opportunity — Town of Lincoln COA Director

Town of Lincoln MA — Council on Aging Director

The Town of Lincoln MA (population of 5,990) seeks a Council on Aging Director to lead a dynamic group of seniors (ages 60 and over) in programs and services. Director works under Town Administrator and Council on Aging Board to set policies, and to design and implement programs and services for approximately 1,500 seniors. Director also works with Friends of the Council on Aging Board responsible for fund raising and major social programs for Council on Aging.

Responsibilities include preparing and managing budget; grant writing; submitting annual reports to town and state; assessing needs; designing and delivering appropriate services including transportation, social services; coordination of services with Area Agency on Aging; writing and distributing monthly newsletter, posting newsletter and COA information to town web site. Director supervises one full time Assistant Director and more than 100 volunteers.

Bachelor's degree required, Master's preferred, with course work in community development, social services or related field. At least three to five years of progressive experience working with a senior population. Excellent verbal and communication skills. Computer literate.

Starting pay range is \$56,332 - \$63,401 based on experience. Submit resume to Anita Scheipers, Assistant Town Administrator, Town Offices, PO Box 6353, Lincoln MA 01773 or jobs@lincolntown.org by **August 26, 2009**. AA/EOE

MCOA Briefs: UpComing Events & Notices

Save the Date
November 20, 2009
MPHA Annual Meeting

Mark your calendar today for the **Massachusetts Public Health Association's Annual Meeting** on Friday, November 20, 2009 at the **Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel in Marlboro.**

As always, the event promises to be a day of excitement, inspiration, learning, and - most importantly - a call to action to keep up the fight!

Details to follow.

Massachusetts Public Health Association | 434 Jamaica Way | Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 | US



Save the Date: September 22nd 2009
The 3rd Annual Falls Awareness Day celebration
at the Great Hall in the State House



Mass-ALFA 2009 Fall Conference and Trade Show is
Thursday, November 5, 2009 at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA

This year's theme is *Assisted Living Today: Mastering the Balancing Act!* Check out the Mass-ALFA conference website for more information about this "greatest show in Massachusetts" about the growing, vibrant assisted living industry! This year's event will feature content about resident care, marketing and sales, operations, activities programs and leadership and professional development. CEUs have been applied for social workers, nurses and activities professionals. For more information, visit: www.massalfa.org



Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation

The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation is accepting applications for the fall 2009 Community Partnerships Leaders Program or CoPaLs. [CoPaLs](http://www.bcbasma.com/CoPaLs) is a five week course designed to strengthen basic leadership skills (communication, organizing, collaborative meetings, policy impact) among emerging community leaders and activists who can make a difference in health care in Massachusetts.

Past participants have said that they could see immediate impact in their work.

Visit <http://bluecrossfoundation.org/Programs.aspx> to download application materials, which are due by **5 p.m.**

Friday, September 4, 2009. The course, in Worcester this fall, starts Wednesday October 7, 2009.

Thank you for applying or recommending applicants (staff, Board or community member) for this great opportunity. Sincerely, Jarrett T. Barrios, President

If you have further questions, please contact Miriam Messinger at 617.246.5238 or at miriam.messinger@bcbasma.com.

MCOA Briefs: UpComing Events continued

Massachusetts
Association of
Older
Americans, Inc.

MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION
of OLDER AMERICANS

Presents

REJOICING in 40 YEARS of ELDER VOICES

Thursday, September 24, 2009

Registration begins: 9:30 AM

Program and Luncheon: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

The Radisson Hotel Boston

200 Stuart Street at South Charles Street

Validated parking: Self \$10, Valet \$15

Join Us As We Celebrate

- Our beginnings under the leadership of Frank J. Manning
- Our ongoing advocacy for the needs of seniors
- Our vision for the future of elder services

Keynote Address:

~ The American Family and Elder Services in the 21st Century ~

by Ann F. Lewis:

CEO of NoLimits.org and

Daughter of Elsie Frank, former MAOA President

Please RSVP by Thursday, September 10

Reservations will be held at registration

For more information, please call Jim Staton at (617) 426-0804

or email: advocacy@maoamass.org

MAOA enriches the lives of all people through education, advocacy, and action on issues that keep elders healthy, economically secure and engaged in life.

MCOA Briefs: UpComing Events continued

Courses for Fall 09 UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON MANNING CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN GERONTOLOGY FALL 09 COURSE OFFERINGS

The following highlights are from our Online & Monday evening classes & the Tuesday morning Certificate in Gerontological Social Policy classes.

ON-LINE: CORCTR 210 Legislative Process and the Elderly (Quinlan)

This 3-credit course offers an overview of Legislative bodies and administrative agencies which, through power and process, can have a profound impact on elder issues in policy making arenas. In order to advocate for elders effectively, it is important to understand the state legislative process and to engage in strategic planning in order to influence the decision makers for a proposed bill to become a law.

MONDAY EVENING: GERCTR 400 Elderly Action Research Project (Griffin)

This 6 credit Elder Action Research Class will explore what makes a community livable and enriching for older citizens through elder focus groups in three suburban Boston communities. Older adults will share their perceptions of livability and what features their community offers to age in place. Students will receive instruction in research methods and conduct a literature review in preparation for the study. They will organize and facilitate the focus groups and they will present their findings through Power Point presentations to interested UMB personnel and to community leaders and groups that concern themselves with aging issues.

TUESDAY Morning: GERCTR 402 Aging and Social Policy I (Silverstein) Certificate in Gerontological Social Policy

Title: Rebalancing Long Term Care Spending: An Exploration of Policies to Enhance State Efforts to Support Independent Living

This 6 credit course focuses on long term care spending and how Massachusetts is faring since the passage of Chapter 211 of the Acts of 2006: Equal Choice Law. The community partner for this seminar is Al Norman, Executive Director of Mass Home Care. According to Mr. Norman, *Massachusetts is moving towards a 'person-centered' long term care system, in which the consumer is given an 'equal choice' of care at home, or care in a nursing home. Home care will no longer be defined as a way to save nursing home costs, but as a civil right of all disabled people.* We will learn about advocacy efforts to support policies to fulfill the intent of the legislation.

For further information, please feel free to contact:

Mary St. Jean, Coordinator Gerontology Undergraduate Program College of Public & Community Service
University of Massachusetts 100 Morrissey Blvd. Boston, MA 02184
Phone: 617-287-7330 Fax: 617-287-7274

MCOA Briefs: UpComing Events continued

Mass. Law Reform Institute and Mass. Continuing Legal Education present the
2009-2010

BASIC PUBLIC BENEFITS ADVOCACY TRAINING SERIES

A series of 11 trainings at MCLE in Boston for legal, social and health services,
and community advocates who assist low- and moderate-income individuals and families.

**Go to the [MCLE website](#)* for complete details and registration information.
Registration must be done through MCLE (not MLRI).**

- **Representing Unemployed Workers at Unemployment Insurance Hearings**
Thursday, September 24, 2009, 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
- **CORI Basics **NEW!****
Thursday, September 24, 2009, 1:15 pm to 4:00 pm
- **Assisting Families Experiencing Homelessness: Emergency Assistance Shelter & Benefits**
Monday, October 5, 2009, 9:30 am to 1:00 pm
- **SSI & SSDI Basics**
Tuesday, November 17, 2009, 9:30 am to 4:00 pm
- **Accessing Affordable Housing: Representing Low-Income Clients Effectively **NEW!****
Wednesday, December 9, 2009, 9:30 am to 4:00 pm
- **Cash Assistance for Massachusetts Families & Individuals: TAFDC, EAEDC & Veterans' Benefits **Veterans' Benefits - NEW!****
Thursday, January 14, 2010, 9:30 am to 4:00 pm
- **Food Stamps/SNAP**
Tuesday, February 2, 2010, 9:30 am to 12:15 pm
- **Supports for Working Poor Families: How to Maximize Income & Reduce Expenses**
Tuesday, February 2, 2010, 1:15 pm to 4:00 pm
- **Elder Benefits Programs**
Thursday, February 25, 2010, 9:30 am to 4:00 pm
- **Health Care Access Programs**
Tuesday, March 16, 2010, 9:30 am to 4:00 pm
- **Immigrants & Public Benefits**
Wednesday, April 7, 2010, 9:30 am to 1:00 pm

*www.mcle.org, then click on Featured Program box

Please share this with others who might be interested.

SAVE THE DATES

Keep Moving

Regional Autumn Walks



GREAT BROOK FARM STATE PARK

984 LOWELL ROAD CARLISLE, MA
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2009

UPPER CHARLES TRAIL MILFORD SECTION

FINO FIELD PARKING LOT AREA GRANITE STREET, MILFORD, MA
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2009

CAPE COD NATIONAL SEASHORE

NAUSET MARSH TRAIL SALT POND VISITOR CENTER
ROUTE 6, EASTHAM, MA
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2009

Walks begin with registration and warm-up at 10:30 A.M.
There are one-mile and three-mile walking routes.

Walks will be held RAIN or SHINE.

Meet *Keep Moving* Walkers from across the state.

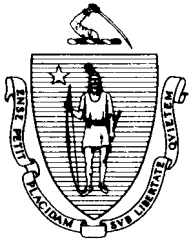
Bring a picnic lunch. Make new friends!

Keep Moving club leaders should contact Ed Pomfred to discuss transportation scholarship assistance. Please make your transportation arrangements early.
For more information contact Ed Pomfred: 617-624-5972 or e-mail: edward.pomfred@state.ma.us

MA Department of Public Health and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts MA provide support for *Keep Moving* in partnership with Executive Office of Elder Affairs, and MA Councils on Aging and Senior Center Directors.



If you are deaf or hard of hearing, or are a person with a disability who requires accommodation, contact **Ed Pomfred: 617-624-5972** or TTY NUMBER: 617-624-5992 or e-mail: edward.pomfred@state.ma.us: by September 14, 2009.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

JUDYANN BIGBY, MD
SECRETARY

JOHN AUERBACH
COMMISSIONER

Autumn Regional *Keep Moving* Walks

July 29, 2009

Dear Walking Club Leader:

The ***Keep Moving* Program** invites you and your walking club to participate in upcoming Autumn Regional *Keep Moving* walks to celebrate senior fitness and to meet other walkers from around the state.

The walks will take place on the dates and times noted on the enclosed registration form **RAIN OR SHINE**. Dress for the weather! **Registration and warm up start at 10:30 a.m. Walks start at 11:00 a.m.** and conclude at 1 p.m. For inclement weather cancellation notices, please check the message at 617-624-5972 on the day of the walk.

There will be one-mile and three-mile walking routes. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy following the walk! Picnic tables are available at the walk sites.

Enclosed are the walk locations and directions to the sites. All walkers will receive a complimentary gift. Please complete the enclosed registration form and return it by **September 14, 2009**.

Keep Moving clubs are encouraged to explore transportation options with *Keep Moving* clubs in surrounding communities. There is limited transportation assistance available to *Keep Moving* clubs. Please contact Ed Pomfred at (617) 624-5972 or edward.pomfred@state.ma.us to discuss transportation assistance. Make your travel arrangements early.

Sincerely,

Ed Pomfred, Director
Keep Moving Program

Keep Moving is supported by Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs, Massachusetts Councils on Aging and Senior Center Directors, and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts.

Keep Moving Autumn Walks 2009

Registration

PLEASE PRINT:

Name of Walking Club: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Address: _____
Street

City

State

Zip code

Please circle the walks and provide the number of walkers that will be attend.

1. Great Brook Farm State Park
984 Lowell Road, Carlisle, MA
Thursday, September 24, 2009 (10:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.)
Number attending _____
2. Upper Charles Trail, Milford Section
Fino Field Parking Lot Area
Granite Street, Milford, MA
Friday, October 2, 2009 (10:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.)
Number attending _____
3. Cape Cod National Seashore
Nauset Marsh Trail
Salt Pond Visitor Center
Rte. 6, Eastham, MA
Wednesday, October 21, 2009 (10:30 a.m. -1:00 p.m.)
Number attending _____

Please return reservations by September 14, 2009

Ed Pomfred, Keep Moving coordinator

MDPH, 250 Washington St., 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

FAX to: (617) 624-5075

Phone: (617) 624-5972

TTY: (617) 624-5992

MCOA Briefs: UpComing Events, continued

Elder Decisions Fall 2009 Trainings

Conflict Resolution Skills Trainings
For Eldercare Professionals
Case Care Managers, Nurses, and Social Workers

CEU Program

Tuesday, September 22- (Early Registration Deadline August 11)
Saturday, November 7- (Early Registration Deadline September 25)

DETAILS AND REGISTRATION AT:

www.ElderDecisions.com

Qualifies Attendees for:

5 hours of CCM continuing education credits

5 Social Work CEUs**

4.75 hours of Nursing Continuing Education Credits*

held at the Walker Center, Newton, MA

Just off Rte 95 and the Mass Pike (Rte 90)

What You Will Learn:

To facilitate multi-party decision-making

To work with clients, patients and families with strong emotions

To build Conflict Resolution skills

[REGISTER FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION SKILLS TRAINING : http://www.elderdecisions.com/pg20.cfm](http://www.elderdecisions.com/pg20.cfm)

Cost: \$195 six weeks in advance (\$225 thereafter)

Includes lunch, snacks, and course materials.

Location: The Walker Center, 171 Grove Street, Newton, MA www.walkerctr.org

*This continuing nursing education activity was approved by the Massachusetts Association of Registered Nurses, Inc., an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

** This program has been approved for 5.0 Continuing Education Credits for relicensure in the period of October 1, 2008 - September 30, 2010, in accordance with 258 CMR. Boston University School of Social Work Authorization Number B-10-155.

Elder Decisions - A Division of Agreement Resources, LLC

30 Walpole Street, Norwood, MA 02062
617-621-7009

www.AgreementResources.com

Register for Elder Trainings at www.ElderDecisions.com

Questions?

Call

(617) 621-7009

or email training@ElderDecisions.com

MCOA Briefs: UpComing Events, continued



Taking Steps – Good for You, Good for Others *Join Memory Walk this September*

Alzheimer's affects whole families, not just the person with the disease, according to the Alzheimer's Association. Some 120,000 people in Massachusetts have Alzheimer's, but the total number of people affected is closer to half a million.

Each year, thousands of people find that doing something positive about Alzheimer's helps fight back against the disease by raising money for programs and research and empowers them to face their own challenges.

"We see what a difference Memory Walk makes for the families themselves," said Betsy Fitzgerald-Campbell, vice president of communications for the Alzheimer's Association, MA/NH Chapter. "They come together, they form teams, they bond, they step and fight back. At the end of the Memory Walk, we all feel stronger and in better shape to face what lies ahead."

Fitzgerald-Campbell's own father died with Alzheimer's disease two years ago.

"Memory Walk is one of the simplest, but most gratifying things that family members can do."

To learn more about **Memory Walk**, visit www.memorywalkMANH.org or call **617-393-2050**.

There are 13 Memory Walk locations in Mass and New Hampshire.

Kevin Scarborough

Communications & Web Coordinator
Alzheimer's Association
Massachusetts/New Hampshire Chapter
the compassion to care, the leadership to conquer

311 Arsenal Street / Watertown, MA 02472
617.868.6718 x2028 V
617.868.6720 F

800.272.3900 Helpline
www.alz.org/MANH
www.alzmass.org/BLOG
www.mindsetpoetry.org

MCOA Briefs: UpComing Events, continued

Have You Heard?

Free Seminar: Hearing and Balance Changes with Age

WHAT: The Department of Audiology at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary will host our **9th Annual Public Forum on Hearing and Balance** on Saturday, Sept. 12th, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Lecture topics will be:

Hearing and Listening For Life

Hearing Aids: Hype vs. Help

“I’m Not as Steady as I Used to Be”: Changes in Balance with Age

Evidence of a Misspent Youth: Noise Exposure Ages Ears

Please join us for this morning of informative lectures. After the program attendees will have the opportunity to visit with our speakers to ask questions. Details of the program can be found at: www.masseyeandear.org ...Just follow the links!

DATE: Saturday, Sept. 12th, 2009

TIME: 9:00 a.m. (Registration opens at 8:30 a.m.)

LOCATION: Meltzer Auditorium, 3rd Floor
Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary
243 Charles Street, Boston, MA

This program is free, but seating is limited.

Call 617-573-3265 to reserve a space or R.S.V.P. via email at:

audiologypublicforum@meei.harvard.edu

As always, we offer:

- Handouts of lecture materials
- Real-time transcription of lectures
- Assistive listening devices (ALDs) available for use during the lectures
- Opportunities for questions
- Discounted parking in the MEEI lot

We hope to see you there!

MCOA Briefs: UpComing Events, continued



New England Association on HIV Over Fifty (NEAHOF)
In Collaboration with
New England AIDS Education & Training Center (NEAETC)
Presents:

4th Annual HIV Over Fifty Update:

Prevention, Care & Management

September 11, 2009

Commonwealth Museum

220 William T Morrissey Blvd., Boston/Dorchester, MA 02125

[Got to http://neaetc.org/events/detail.cfm?eventID=1496](http://neaetc.org/events/detail.cfm?eventID=1496)
[to register or call 617-262-5657 for more info.](http://neaetc.org/events/detail.cfm?eventID=1496)

Agenda

7:30 am to 8:00 am	Registration and Continental Breakfast
8:00 am to 8:15 am	Welcome and Opening Remarks James Campbell , Founder of NEAHOF and consumer TBA State of the State
8:15 am to 9:00 am	Epidemiology of HIV/HCV in the over fifty population Kevin Cranston, MD
9:00 am to 10:00 am	HIV Diagnosis in a Primary Care Practice 'A case based approach exemplars HIV/HCV, HBV, STD's HIV related malignancies' Howard Libman, MD
10:00 am to 10:15 am	Break
10:15 am to 11:15 am	Medical Management of patients aging with diabetes and cardiac disease, Christine Wanke MD
11:15 am to 11:30am	State of AIDS John Auerbach Federal Overview Christopher Bates
11:30 am to 12:30 pm	Risk management testing and screening? Robert Greenwald Esq.
12:30 pm to 1:30 pm	Lunch and Keynote Speaker Beatrice Berry, Health care Disparities in the Aging Population Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Syndrome Steven Brady, PhD
1:30 pm to 2:30 pm	Break
2:30 pm to 2:45 pm	PrEP : Pre-exposure prophylaxis New data, where will it take us? Marcy Gelman, MPH
2:45 pm to 3:45 pm	

CONTACT INFORMATION

Jim Campbell NEAHOF 23 Miner Street, Boston, MA 02215
jcampbellnahof@aol.com 617-262-5657 & 617-233-7107

MCOA Briefs: UpComing Events continued

To : All MA Councils on Aging

From : Host Site Councils on Aging

Re : Board Training

Please know that Elder Affairs will conduct (regional) board trainings this fall 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.

Programs typically run from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (including a break) with registration starting at 8:30 a.m., but **see*** exceptions, below. Kindly confirm attendance with the site host at least one week in advance. Lunch may also 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!

***October 19th** : *registration 12:30-1:00p.m.* **Sutton COA** 19 Hough Rd.
Michelle Edelstein: medelstein@town.sutton.ma.us 508-234-0703

October 22nd **Tewksbury COA** 175 Chandler St.
Linda Brabant: lbrabant@town.tewksbury.ma.us 978-640-4482

***October 29th** : *registration 4:00-4:30 p.m.* **Pittsfield COA** 330 North St.
Jeanne Beauchemin: jbeauchemin@pittsfieldch.com 413-499-9346

October 30th **South Hadley COA** 45 Dayton St. Joanne Trybus:
councilonaging@southhadley.org 413-538-5042

November 3rd **Duxbury COA** 10 Mayflower St. Joanne Moore:
JoanneMoore@duxburycoa.com 781-934-5774

November 12th **Northborough COA** 119 Bearfoot Rd.
Kelly Burke: kburke@town.northborough.ma.us 508-393-5035

There will also be board training on Thursday afternoon (October 8th) at the upcoming MCOA conference in Sturbridge. Please know that Elder Affairs, in cooperation/conjunction with local Councils on Aging, 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, toll-free, 800-698-9723 or emmett.schmarsow@state.ma.us, or toll-free at 1-800-698-9723. Thank you.

Reservation Due September 15, 2009

MCOA
Membership Meeting
September 18, 2009
Milford's Senior Center

9:30 - 10am Registration

10am- 10:15 Business Meeting
MCOA Nomination Committee Report
Conference Update
Planning for FY10

10:30- 12:30pm Program: Low Vision 101 and Available Resources
Commissioner Janet LaBreck, MA Commission for the Blind and Anna Kusterski, Rehabilitation Teacher in our Central MA office
MCOA has made Low Vision Education a priority this year. Join us as we open a working relationship with the MA Commission for the Blind, the Perkins School and the Carrol Center to learn about Vision issues as we age and available resources. Look for more workshops each day at our fall conference.

12:30- 1:00pm Buffet Lunch:

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

Registration Deadline is Tuesday September 15th *(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 FY2010 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.