

MCOA News

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Notes from the Executive Director: April 2011

Please Circulate to Your Staff & Board
Point them to www.mcoaonline.com

Enclosed in This Mailing:

- **Legislative Update:** Planning for the FY12 Budget Debate – Action Needed. Details on the FY12 Budget Process including the COA Line Item and proposed cuts to Adult Day Health.
- **Job Opportunities, Member Requests and News You Should Use**
- **Upcoming Events** including MCOA's Volunteer Summit in Bellingham and several other spring conferences and training opportunities.

FY12 Budget Debate: Action Needed – see pages 2-8

As the FY12 Budget debate continues, MCOA encourages all members to make contact with their legislators NOW! The House plan will debate on Floor Amendments April 25th – and the Senate by early May. Your attention to this matter should be immediate. **Background:** House 1 the Governor's Proposal for FY12 level funds line item #9110-9002 Local aid to COAs at \$7.9million. The 2010 US Census comes into play for FY12 and early indications suggest up to 180,000 more elders will be counted. Level funds with more elders will equal a lower Formula Grant rate – possibly as low as \$5.75-\$6.00/elder/YEAR. As we go to press, the House Ways and Means has also proposed 'level funding' of \$7.9 million. We are currently supporting a floor amendment (Hogan #598) that will add \$700,000 (\$8.6 million) above the HWM allocation, that could raise the Formula to \$6.50/elder from the current projections of \$6/elder with 'level funding'. More details on pages 2-3. In addition, the Board voted on April 15th to support floor amendments for Adult Day Health, Protective Services and the Salary Reserve. Details can be found on pages 4-8

Legislative Resources posted on our website: www.mcoaonline.com

- Open Letter to the Legislature re: FY12 Budget
- Intro Letter from Executive Director re: FY12 Budget
- Legislative Workshop Planning Guide

5 Amendments to the FY12 HWM Budget that MCOA is Actively Supporting

- COA Formula Grant Hogan Amendment #598
- Adult Day Health-Wolf Amendment #131
- Adult Day Health- Fernandes Amendment #261
- Elder Protective Services- Funding Restoration Sullivan Amendment #286
- Salary Reserve Balser Amendment #571

The House will debate the budget beginning April 25th.

Follow the process at <http://www.malegislature.gov/Budget/HouseBudget?budgetYear=2012>

Focal Points: By the last week in April the Spring 2011 edition of *Focal Points* will be posted on our website www.mcoaonline.com. Shortly afterward, Member COAs will receive five copies at your senior center and we ask you to distribute these among staff, Board, Mayor/Town Council, Select Board/City Council, and Finance Committee. In addition we hope that you publish in your next newsletter an announcement that it is available online and accessible to the public. We also mail hard copies to over 250 elder advocates, members of the Administration and all Beacon Hill Legislators.

MCOA Legislative Alert FY12-2A: Amendment #598

Floor Amendment for Line Item #9110-9002 ACTION NEEDED

MCOA Membership

Excellent start: Within 24 hours we had 56 Co-sponsors to Rep. Hogan's Amendment #598 and our backup Rep Cantwell's Amendment #517. Now we have until Monday April 25th noon to double that number if we are to be taken seriously.

Review the list of co-sponsors below and:

- If your Rep has signed on, **send him/her a thank you note** and encourage them to continue to lobby for funding during the process by talking directly with Speaker DeLeo and HWM Chair Dempsey.
- **If they are not on the list –call them again–** ask them to join us in support of COAs (see talking points below). Make sure they know we need \$9.2 million to maintain \$7/elder Formula but **we are trying to be realistic** and are asking only for \$8.6 million which will bring Formula to \$6.50. **Without any increase the Formula Grant will drop to \$6/elder – a 15% reduction in the rate.** We are seeking public support. **We need them to go to the House Clerk's office and sign onto Amendment # 598.**
- If their response is –I can't be public with my support– ask them to at least speak directly to Speaker DeLeo and Chairman Dempsey. We need all the allies we can get.
- Contact information for House members can be found at: <http://www.malegislature.gov/People/House> or call **617.722.2000**. We will focus on Senators at a later date.

Supportive Representatives should now go to the House Clerk's Office (Room 145) and sign the Amendment Book on the page for **Amendment #598 Funding for Local COAs.**

All the names recorded by Monday April 25th noon will be shared with the Speaker, Chair of HWM and our Lead Sponsor Kate Hogan, in hopes that money can be found to raise line item #9110-9002 from \$7.9 million to \$8.6 million, so the COA Formula Grant can rise from the projected reduced rate of \$6/elder to around \$6.50/elder/YEAR. We will let you know who made the final roster so you can publicly thank our supporters.

Read the background below for more talking points.

List of Co-Sponsors that signed the original amendment before it was filed with the House Clerk – Friday noon

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Rep Hogan of Stow, | 20. Dwyer of Woburn, | 39. Mark of Hancock, |
| 2. Alicea of Charlton, | 21. Ehrlich of Marblehead, | 40. McMurtry of Dedham, |
| 3. Ashe of Longmeadow, | 22. Fernandes of Milford, | 41. Nyman of Hanover, |
| 4. Atkins of Concord, | 23. Finn of West Springfield, | 42. O'Connell of Taunton, |
| 5. Balsler of Newton, | 24. Forry of Boston | 43. O'Day of West Boylston, |
| 6. Barrows of Mansfield, | 25. Fresolo of Worcester, | 44. Poirier of North Attleborough, |
| 7. Benson of Lunenburg, | 26. Galvin of Canton, | 45. Rosa of Leominster, |
| 8. Brodeur of Melrose, | 27. Garlick of Needham, | 46. Scibak of South Hadley, |
| 9. Brownsberger of Belmont, | 28. Garry of Dracut, | 47. Sciortino of Medford, |
| 10. Campbell of Methuen, | 29. Gifford of Wareham, | 48. Smizik of Brookline, |
| 11. Canavan of Brockton, | 30. Hill of Ipswich, | 49. Smola of Palmer, |
| 12. Canessa of New Bedford, | 31. Jones of North Reading, | 50. Sullivan of Fall River, |
| 13. Cantwell of Marshfield | 32. Kafka of Stoughton, | 51. Timilty of Milton, |
| 14. Carridi of North Adams, | 33. Khan of Newton, | 52. Torrisi of North Andover, |
| 15. Conroy of Wayland, | 34. Koczera of New Bedford, | 53. Vieira of Teaticket, |
| 16. Cusack of Braintree, | 35. Levy of Marlborough, | 54. Walsh of Boston, |
| 17. deMacedo of Plymouth, | 36. Linsky of Natick, | 55. Walsh of Framingham, |
| 18. Devers of Lawrence, | 37. Lombardo of Billerica, | 56. Winslow of Norfolk, |
| 19. DiNatale of Fitchburg, | 38. Madden of Nantucket, | |

From email: MCOA Legislative Alert- FY12-2B

Rep Kate Hogan, co-chair of the Elder Caucus, has agreed to be the lead sponsor for a floor amendment to raise Line Item #9110-9002 (local aid to Councils on Aging) from \$7.9 million to \$8.6 million.

MCOA Legislative Alert: FY12-2A: #9110-9002 continued

Background

- This line item pays for a Formula Grant for municipal Councils on Aging
- For the last few years the rate has been set at \$7/elder/YEAR
- HWM for FY12 ‘level funded’ the line item at \$7.9 million
- As you know, the 2010 US Census impacts the Formula Grant beginning in FY12
- With the projected 170,000 more adults added into the calculation and with ‘level funding’
- The Formula will be reduced to \$6/elder/YEAR – a 15% reduction in the rate
- We would need \$9.2 million to maintain \$7/elder/YEAR but realistically we are asking for
- \$8.6 million to set the rate at \$6.50/elder/YEAR (a \$700,000 increase)

Summary/ amendment language:

“In line item #9110-9002 remove the figure \$7,904,327 and substitute the figure \$8,600,000”

Source: HWM FY12 Budget <http://www.malegislature.gov/Budget/FY2012/House/WaysAndMeans/Appropriations>
9110-9002

For grants to the councils on aging and for grants to or contracts with non-public entities which are consortia or associations of councils on aging; provided, that notwithstanding the foregoing, all monies appropriated in this item shall be expended in accordance with the distribution schedules for formula and incentive grants established by the secretary of elder affairs; and provided further, that such distribution schedules shall be submitted to the house and senate committees on ways and means \$7,904,327

Action Steps Needed by our Members – updated Tuesday April 19th

After Friday April 15th:

Continue a dialogue with your Representatives and encourage them to co-sponsor by **going to the House Clerk’s office** and **signing the “Amendment Book”**

MCOA will keep a careful track of the names of our supporters to help Rep. Hogan with her efforts.

NUMBERS COUNT: There are 160 Representatives — we need more than half, to be taken seriously.

MCOA maintains a detailed list of co-sponsors to ensure that each Representative who is publicly supporting us is properly and publicly thanked. We will forward the final list to you to act on after the debate is over.

Again, thank you for your efforts.

Stay in touch

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Massachusetts Councils on Aging
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MCOA Legislative Alert: Another Amendment that needs Our Support **Adult Day Health – MCOA Board Approved April 15, 2011**

The **Massachusetts Adult Day Services Association (MADSA)** has provided the information on two amendments that will be filed to support the Adult Day Health Program. One will be filed by the House Chair of the Elder Affairs Committee **Representative Alice Wolf** (D-Cambridge) and the other filed by **Representative John Fernandes** (D-Milford).

Both of these amendments will maintain ADH rates at current levels, require that the Basic level be maintained, establish a short-term moratorium on new or expanded ADH programs (as an alternative cost-savings measure vs. elimination of Basic) until a study of ADH can be completed by December 2011. Representative Wolf's amendment additionally requires that the Administration collect all cost reports and review the ADH rate setting process in an effort to establish a better process; and the elimination of HPP as another alternative cost savings measure to the elimination of Basic.

The Wolf and Fernandes Adult Day Health Amendments in the FY 2012 Budget

- The Administration proposed to cut \$55 Million in MassHealth Adult Day Health (ADH) spending from its FY 12 budget by eliminating the "Basic" Level of ADH service on July 1, 2011 (line 4000-0600, and outside section 44). This drastic proposal eliminates Adult Day Health services for most program participants in Massachusetts.
- Both of these Amendments will maintain ADH rates at current levels, require that the Basic level be maintained, establish a short-term moratorium on new or expansions of ADH programs (as an alternative cost savings measure vs. elimination of Basic) until a study of ADH can be completed by December 2011. Rep. Wolf's amendment additionally requires that the Administration collect all cost reports and review the ADH rate setting process in an effort to establish a better process; and the elimination of HPP as another alternative cost savings measure to the elimination of Basic.
- ADH programs provide preventative health care services, assessments, and ongoing medical services to frail elders and persons with disabilities in a community-based setting. They are gatekeepers to more expensive health care services and are extremely cost-efficient — providing a six- to eight-hour day with registered nursing care, chronic disease management, medication administration & management, access to social workers, assistance with activities of daily living, therapies, and two meals all for **\$53.93 per day!**
- About 11,000 of 11,500 ADH participants are currently served in the Basic level of ADH and will lose their service if the Administration's FY 12 budget cuts are implemented.
- **Most of the 140 programs statewide will close, and 2,500 ADH staff members will lose jobs as well.** Most legislators have at least one adult day program in their districts and some have many.
- Cutting or eliminating ADH programs will actually *increase* state costs due to shifts to nursing home and other more expensive health care services. ADH Nurses expect that 2,300 or 20% of all ADH participants will move to nursing homes, soon after they lose their ADH service. Nursing home costs for these displaced ADH patients will cost the state \$164.5 Million per year versus the current costs for these individuals in ADH — \$34.5 Million per year. **In other words, an increase in state costs of \$130 Million per year.** MassHealth's costs for ER visits and hospitalizations will also increase.

Please contact Michele Keefe, Dir. of Public Policy, MADSA (617) 469-5838 or keefe@rogerson.org with questions.

Legislative Alert: Another Amendment that needs Our Support

MCOA Adult Day Health – MCOA Board Approved April 15, 2011, continued

Wolf Amendment #131

Representatives Wolf of Cambridge, Hecht of Watertown, Coppinger of West Roxbury, Canessa of New Bedford, DiNatale of Fitchbur, Madden of Nantucket, Walsh of Boston, Fox of Boston, Koczera of New Bedford, Brownsberger of Belmont, Collins of Boston, O’Day of Worcester, McMurtry of Dedham, Ross of Attleboro, Khan of Newton, Garlick of Needham, Benson of Lunenburg, Galvin of Canton, Canavan of Brockton, Torrisi of North Andover, Henriquez of Boston, move to amend the bill by adding the following section:

Section ____: Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to the contrary, the division of medical assistance and the division of health care finance and policy shall make no changes prior to December 31, 2011 in the clinical eligibility or level of reimbursement paid to providers of adult day health services for basic and complex levels of care.

The executive office of health and human services is further directed to implement a temporary moratorium effective with the passage of this legislation on the acceptance and approval of applications for (i) enrollment of new adult day health providers and (ii) expansion of the certified capacity of already approved adult day health providers as provided in 130 C.M.R. 404.400 *et seq.* This moratorium shall not apply to Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) 42 US Code Section 1894.

Such moratorium shall remain in effect until such time as the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Elder Affairs jointly complete a comprehensive study in consultation with representatives of House and Senate Ways and Means Committee, the Joint Committee on Elder Affairs and the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing as well as the Massachusetts Adult Day Services Association and other interested parties. The study shall make recommendations regarding licensure and other means to ensure an appropriate level of high quality adult day health care. In addition the study shall make recommendations updating the basis for the current rate structure by developing a model for imputing actual costs into the rate structure and the overall financing structure of Adult Day Services. In addition the study shall asses the current manner of categorizing clients as basic or complex. The study shall also assess the commonwealth’s current and future adult day health services needs and recommend needed changes these needs require.

The final study and recommendations shall be reported to the House and Senate committees on ways & means, the joint committee on elder affairs and the joint committee on health care financing no later than December 31, 2011. If that date is not met, the moratorium shall stay in effect until 90 days after the report is submitted.

The division of medical assistance and the division of health care finance and policy shall take immediate steps, on the enactment of this legislation, to terminate reimbursement for the Health Promotion and Prevention level of care pursuant to a transition plan developed by the division of medical assistance for affected members.

Notwithstanding the provision of any general or special law to the contrary, the division of health care financing and policy and the division of medical assistance shall collect any outstanding cost reports from adult day health programs and shall review said cost reports and take any action as required or allowed by 114 C.M.R. 10.04.

Legislative Alert: A Third Amendment that needs Our Support

MCOA Board Approved – April 15, 2011

Adult Day Health – Fernandes Amendment #261

Line – item 4000-0600 is hereby amended by inserting the following language at the end thereof:

Provided further, that the levels of service and reimbursement rates for Adult Day Health services shall not be less than the rates in effect on January 1, 2011;

Section _____. The executive office of health and human services is further directed to implement a moratorium effective with the passage of this legislation on the acceptance and approval of applications for (i) enrollment of

new adult day health providers and (ii) expansion of the certified capacity of already approved adult day health providers as provided in 130 C.M.R. 404.400 *et seq.*, provided however that the moratorium shall not apply to Programs of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly. Such moratorium shall remain in effect until such time as the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Elder Affairs jointly complete a comprehensive study in consultation with the Massachusetts Adult Day Services Association and other interested parties. The study shall assess the commonwealth's current and future adult day health services needs and make recommendations regarding licensure and other means to ensure an appropriate level of high quality adult day health care. The final study report and recommendations shall be reported to the House and Senate committees on ways & means and the joint committee on health care financing no later than December 31, 2011.

Legislative Alert: A Fourth Amendment that needs Our Support MCOA Board Approved – April 15, 2011

Elder Protective Services Funding Restoration – Sullivan Amendment #286

Representative David Sullivan (D-Fall River) will file an amendment to add **\$1.5 million** to line-item 9110-1636, the **Elder Protective Services** account. This would raise FY12 funding for this account from \$15.2 million to **\$16.7 million**. This is the top FY12 budget priority of Mass Home Care, the ASAP trade association. Because of staff shortages in the protective services budget, the ASAPs are "**screening out**" as many as **one in five elder abuse investigations** using a risk assessment process. This amendment will restore the funding lost in 2011 when the FMAP money was late in arriving. While many line items were made whole when the FMAP money arrived last September – the funding lost by protective services was never restored. Representatives can sign on in support of this amendment by contacting Joyce McCauley in Representative Sullivan's office at 617-722-2070 or joyce.mccauley@mahouse.gov.

Elder Protective Services Amendment # 286 – Rep. David Sullivan and 36 cosponsors This amendment restores \$1.5 million to the elder abuse line item 9110-1636 which was cut by the Governor in June of 2010.

The General Court appropriated **\$16.734 million for protective services** in the final FY 2011 budget — but in last June, the Governor vetoed \$1.5 million because federal FMAP funds had not arrived. When the FMAP funds arrived in the fall, the vetoed funds were never restored — even though most elderly line items that lost FMAP funding were made whole. Protective never recovered the vetoed funds. Amendment #286 restores this line item to its FY 2011 appropriation level.

MCOA Legislative Alert: A Fifth Amendment that needs Our Support MCOA Board Approved – April 15, 2011

Salary Reserve – Balsler Amendment #571

The **Massachusetts Council for Human Service Providers** has announced that **Representative Ruth Balsler** (D-Newton) will file an amendment to restore the **Direct Care Worker's Salary Reserve**. The Salary Reserve is a **\$28 million** fund that would give a small cost-of-living adjustment to the direct care workers, including homemakers and personal care homemakers, earning **less than \$40,000** per year. This wage increase would provide a very modest increase of approximately **25 cents an hour** to over **9,000** homemakers and personal care homemakers. These are some of the hardest working and lowest paid individuals in the Commonwealth, and because of level-funded contracts, the salary reserve is the only way they can receive a small salary increase.

The Provider's Council has set up an online advocacy tool you can use to send a message to your Representative to ask him/her to sign on in support of Representative Balsler's Salary Reserve amendment. Click on the following link to send your message:

http://org2.democracynaction.org/o/5721/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=6376

Line-item	Description	FY10 Budget (After October 9C Cuts)	Current FY11 Budget (Includes FMAP and Jan 11 Supplemental Budgets)	Governor's FY12 Budget Proposal	House Ways and Means FY12 Budget Proposal
1599-6901	Salary Reserve	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4000-0600	MassHealth - Senior Care Plans	\$2,114,610,628	\$2,495,602,264	\$2,495,602,264	\$2,495,602,264
4000-0640	MassHealth Nursing Home Supplemental Rates	\$288,500,000	\$288,500,000	\$288,500,000	\$288,500,000
4120-5000	MRC Home Care Assistance Program	\$5,103,518	\$4,364,086	transferred to 4120-1000, see email for more details	\$4,340,799
9110-0100	Department for Elder Affairs Administration	\$2,099,061	\$1,994,374	\$1,994,374	\$1,994,374
9110-1455	Senior Prescription Drug Insurance	\$34,391,883	\$31,542,765	\$21,665,608	\$21,602,546
9110-1500	Elder Enhanced Community Options	\$45,789,340	\$45,789,340	\$45,789,340	\$45,789,340
9110-1604	Supportive Senior Housing Program	\$4,014,802	\$4,014,802	\$4,014,802	\$4,014,802
9110-1630	Elder Home Care Purchased Services	\$100,305,637	\$101,680,898	\$96,780,898	\$97,780,898
9110-1633	Elder Home Care Case Management	\$36,068,041	\$35,738,377	\$35,738,377	\$35,738,377
9110-1636	Elder Protective Services	\$15,249,147	\$15,250,554	\$15,250,554	\$15,250,554
9110-1660	Congregate Housing Program	\$1,503,617	\$1,503,617	\$1,503,617	\$1,503,617
9110-1900	Elder Nutrition Program	\$6,727,954	\$6,275,328	\$6,275,328	\$6,275,328
9110-9002	Grants to Councils on Aging	\$8,115,068	\$7,904,327	\$7,904,327	\$7,904,327

House Ways & Means FY12 Proposal

MCOANews: Legislative News – The FY12 Budget continues

STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

STATE CAPITOL BRIEFS – THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2011
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

EARLY APRIL TAX RECEIPTS UP \$107 MIL OVER SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR

While state officials warned that it's not a reliable indicator of tax collections for the full month of April, receipts over the first half of the month were up by \$107 million over the same period in April 2010, according to a Department of Revenue letter to legislators. Between 60 percent and 75 percent of total tax collections in April occur in the second half of the month, Revenue Commissioner Navjeet Bal cautioned in her letter. Bal attributed the month-to-date increase to growth in income, sales and corporate taxes, which were partially offset by increases in income tax refunds. The state's official benchmark for April projects total tax collections for the month of \$1.919 billion, an increase of \$171 million over April 2010, but tax officials say most of that expected growth is due to "timing related revenue shifts." State tax collections over the first nine months of fiscal 2011 are running about \$850 million over original budget benchmarks; the Legislature and Gov. Deval Patrick in three supplemental budgets have authorized midyear spending in excess of \$850 million, with the assistance of federal funds. Tax collections over the first three quarters of fiscal 2011 are up 8.9 percent from the same period in fiscal 2010.

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STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

STATE CAPITOL BRIEFS – LUNCH EDITION - MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2011
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

MARCH TAX COLLECTIONS JUMP 9.2 PERCENT

Tax collections in March, one of the biggest months of the year in terms of total collections, surged 9.2 percent above March 2010. According to the Department of Revenue, \$1.774 billion was collected in March and the collections exceeded an upwardly revised budget benchmark by \$164 million. Tax collections over the first nine months of fiscal 2011 are up 8.9 percent, or \$1.169 billion, over the comparable period in fiscal 2010 and are running \$145 million ahead of revised budget benchmarks. The Legislature and Gov. Deval Patrick have used the surge in tax collections to plow hundreds of millions of dollars in additional spending into the fiscal 2011 budget that Patrick signed last June. Patrick and legislative leaders, facing the exhaustion of one-time federal aid and having pledged to keep new or higher taxes out of the fiscal 2012 budget, say they are planning major cuts in state spending in the fiscal 2012 budgets that are under development, including a House plan due out of the Ways and Means Committee in mid-April. Revenue Commissioner Navjeet Bal said the March collections were lifted by better-than-expected corporate and business tax collections and strong withholding collections. "These numbers reflect continuing improvement in the economy, and we are cautiously optimistic about continued revenue growth," Bal said in a statement. Income tax refunds in March were do

STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

STATE CAPITOL BRIEFS – THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2011
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

EXPANDED GAMBLING HEARING SET FOR MAY 4

Lawmakers will consider bills to introduce new forms of gambling in Massachusetts at a May 4 hearing in the State House's Gardner Auditorium. The 10 a.m. hearing, which will be held by the Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies, will feature testimony on about a dozen bills dealing with proposals to bring destination resort casinos and slot parlors to Massachusetts, as well as lawmakers' other proposals to draw new gambling business and revenue to the state. The committee is chaired by Rep. Joseph Wagner (D-Chicopee) and Sen. Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). Expanded gambling bills cleared both branches last session but died over a disagreement between the House and Gov. Deval Patrick over racetrack slot machines. Patrick and DeLeo appear to remain in disagreement over that issue, leaving the fate of casinos uncertain, especially given heavy turnover in the House and Senate in the new session.

SENATE COMMITS TO LOCAL AID FLOOR

The outlook for likely local aid to cities and towns became a little clearer Thursday. The Senate approved a resolution outlining minimum amounts of Chapter 70 public education funds and unrestricted local aid for fiscal 2012. The resolution matches the local aid figures approved as part of the fiscal 2012 budget proposal Wednesday by the House Ways and Means Committee. The full House, which has not adopted a local aid resolution, plans to debate the budget at the end of April. The Senate resolution calls for \$3.99 billion in Chapter 70 funding and \$833.9 million in unrestricted local aid, representing a 7 percent reduction. During debate, Sen. Marc Pacheco (D-Taunton) urged his colleagues to consider expanded gambling as a way to increase local aid. "We have alternative revenue sources that could take care of this," said Pacheco. "Give the citizens of Massachusetts the choice to decide whether they would spend their recreational money here in Massachusetts or continue to go to Connecticut and Rhode Island."

FED FUNDS AWARDED TO HELP ADDRESS INDIVIDUALS WITH COMPLEX MEDICAL NEEDS

Massachusetts is one of 15 states that will receive \$1 million to develop new ways to eliminate duplication of services and lower the overall costs of treating individuals who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid, a group of patients who often have costly and complex medical needs. The funding was announced by federal health and human services officials on Thursday. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services also made several announcements in connection with the new federal health care law, touting plans for all states to receive increased flexibility to provide home and community-based services to disabled individuals and approval of a proposal by the state of New Jersey for flexibility to expand health coverage for nearly 70,000 low-income residents.

END 04/14/2011

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REPORT: MUNI-GOVERNMENT HEALTH PREMIUMS, BENEFITS OUT OF WHACK

By Michael Norton, STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

APRIL 5, 2011.....Municipal governments in Massachusetts provide employees with health insurance plans that are far more costly and generous than those offered in the private sector or through other public employers, according to a new report. The report, released Tuesday by The Boston Foundation, a self-described community foundation with \$733 million in assets, and the business-supported Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, labeled municipal government health plans "gilded benefits from a bygone era" and called upon Gov. Deval Patrick and the Legislature to allow municipal health plans to be designed outside of collective bargaining. The report, authored by Bob Carey of RLCarey Consulting, former director of planning and development for the state Connector Authority, compared municipal premiums and cost sharing for 28 municipal government plans, two state plans, one federal plan, and the average benefits in plans found in a 2010 statewide survey of employer benefits conducted by Associated Industries of Massachusetts. The report hits Beacon Hill as talks continue over municipal health insurance policy changes and a day after more than 300 union officials, teachers, police officers, firefighters and other municipal workers roamed the State House halls urging lawmakers to preserve health care under collective bargaining.

Among the report's findings:

- For family coverage, the average municipal premium is \$5,600, or 37 percent higher than the average private sector premium, 33 percent more than the federal plan premium, and 21 percent more than the state's Group Insurance Commission plans.
- In the municipal plans, the average co-payment for a visit to a primary care physician (PCP) is \$11. State, federal, and private sector employees on average pay almost twice as much for visits to a primary care physician. Specialist visits averaged \$14 for municipal workers, while the co-pays were a minimum of \$20 in the GIC plans, \$30 for federal workers, and averaged \$20 for private sector HMO plans.
- Municipal employees pay less for generic prescriptions than other employees.
- Nine of the 14 communities had no co-pays for most other medical services, including high-tech imaging, outpatient surgery, and inpatient hospitalization. The other five communities have no co-payments for high-tech imaging but have co-payments averaging \$128 and \$228 for outpatient surgery and inpatient hospitalization. State, federal, and private sector workers pay at least \$75 for high-tech imaging, \$150 for outpatient surgery, and \$250 for an inpatient hospitalization.
- No municipal plan studied includes a deductible. In the other public and private plans, members are responsible for a minimum deductible of \$250 for individuals and \$700 for families.

Calling the benefits in municipal government health plans "extraordinarily rich," the report acknowledges that plan design changes made outside of collective bargaining would shift co-payment and deductible costs onto employees, but concludes that helping municipalities control the rising premiums will help cities and towns and their employees and represents "the more profound and lasting advantage of cost sharing." Without reforms, additional cuts to education and municipal services are likely, the report says. "With cost sharing employees have a financial incentive to be more selective in using medical services; when services are virtually free there is no impact on consumer behavior," according to the report. "Research has shown that cost sharing can reduce utilization without adversely impacting the quality of health care because members are more likely to forego care with questionable value and use only the services worth the additional cost." In early March, public employee unions announced they were willing to agree to an expedited form of bargaining to help cities and towns protect jobs and services by trimming health insurance costs, but said the savings would be achieved through cost shifting and called for any savings realized by municipalities be split with employees.

Members of the union-backed coalition also said state regulations must be changed to allow for the creation of savings accounts to mitigate expected increases in employee co-payments and deductibles, called for a ban on mid-year health insurance plan design changes at the state level, and said lawmakers should force increased labor representation on the state commission that oversees health plans. Municipal officials panned the union's plan, saying it would not lead to lasting savings for taxpayers.

In January, Gov. Patrick proposed a plan to require all cities and towns in Massachusetts to either join the state-run health insurance program or institute a program "of equivalent value and cost" by July 1, the start of fiscal year 2012.

The Public Service Committee, co-chaired by Rep. John Scibak (D-South Hadley) and Sen. Katherine Clark (D-Melrose) held a hearing on municipal health insurance reforms last month but has not recommended a bill.

Union officials and Rep. James O'Day (D-West Boylston), interviewed by the News Service Monday at lobby day events, said they expected the House to include municipal health insurance reforms in the House Ways and Means Committee's fiscal 2012 budget due out in mid-April. Tom Gosnell, president of the American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts, said efforts by governors in Midwestern states to limit or roll back collective bargaining rights have union officials on alert.

"The issue of collective bargaining is front and center," Gosnell said. "The MMA (Massachusetts Municipal Association) wants to do away with collective bargaining. They are pushing stronger than ever." Added Edward Kelly, president of the Professional Fire Fighters of Massachusetts, "Republican governors are just carving up collective bargaining."

"We can work on the details through reasonable bargaining," O'Day said.

-END-4/5/2011

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MCOANews: Legislative News – The FY12 Budget continues



LABOR RIPS WEAKENING OF BARGAINING IN HOUSE MUNI-HEALTH PLAN
By Matt Murphy
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, APRIL 14, 2011....Unions officials on Wednesday tore into a House proposal that set up a showdown between House Speaker Robert DeLeo and organized labor over municipal employee health benefits, calling the plan a "non-starter" and threatening to take their grievances to the ballot box if the changes become law.

House budget chief Rep. Brian Dempsey laid out the proposal to reform municipal health care as part of the House budget plan for fiscal 2012. The proposal goes further than ones offered by Gov. Deval Patrick and a coalition of labor groups, giving city and town managers the power to set co-pays and deductibles without collective bargaining.

"It's the most significant reform we can make this year," said Dempsey, a Haverhill Democrat and chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, who estimated communities could collectively save \$100 million if the plan were implemented for a full year.

The push to reform municipal health care comes as health costs continue to eat away at state and municipal budgets, cutting into resources available in the state budget for local aid and forcing cities and towns to consider layoffs and service reductions.

Rep. Stephen Kulik, the vice-chairman of House Ways and Means, called the municipal health plan a "fair" compromise that treats municipal employees equal to state employees and will allow cities and towns to invest the money they will save into services and jobs.

Assistant Ways and Means Chairwoman Rep. Marty Walz said the proposal would free up dollars at the local level, allowing investments in public schools.

The House plan was unknown to even stakeholders until shortly before its release – bills dealing with the topic were the subject of a lengthy public hearing last month before the Legislature's Public Service Committee, which has not made a recommendation.

The Ways and Means Committee plan would give limited plan design authority to municipal managers allowing them to unilaterally set co-pays and deductibles at levels equal to the most subscribed plan in the state's Group Insurance Commission.

Any increases above that threshold would be subject to collective bargaining, under the plan, and unions would retain the right to bargain over employee premium contributions.

The House plan also eliminates the 70 percent threshold of union support for cities and towns wishing to join the GIC, allowing municipalities to make the switch if they can demonstrate savings would be greater than those achieved through plan design.

Edward Kelly, president of the Professional Firefighters of Massachusetts, said he prefers a plan offered by labor groups and called the House plan a "non-starter," vowing to fight its passage any way he can.

"The proposal we heard today mirrors the savings of what the public employees offered a month ago. The only thing that this budget does is silence the voice of working families," Kelly said. "This significantly weakens collective bargaining, but those voice won't be silent in November 2012."

AFL-CIO President Robert Haynes also called the plan "unacceptable."

"All we wanted and all we still want is a say through collective bargaining over how our plans will be changed for the worse and how we will pay more," Haynes said. "This initial proposal takes away long-held collective bargaining rights from workers, and we cannot be about that here in Massachusetts.

We must do better and we will work through the budget process through amendments and other necessary means to improve this initial proposal."

Gov. Deval Patrick has proposed giving unions a 45-day window for expedited coalition bargaining to negotiate with municipalities on health plans that were comparable in cost to the GIC. Failure to reach a deal would either lead to arbitration, or employees could be forced to join the GIC.

A coalition of unions, representing firefighters, teachers, police and other employees, largely agreed to Patrick's plan to save \$100 million, but insisted that 50 percent of those avoided costs be shared with employees through benefits such as health reimbursement accounts.

The House plans provides for bargaining between employees and management over the sharing of just 10 percent of the savings. Dempsey called it an "appropriate number."

Geoff Beckwith, president of Massachusetts Municipal Association, was delighted with the proposal, calling it "significant reform" that preserved collective bargaining rights at a level greater than that enjoyed by state employees who are currently prohibited from bargaining over employer-employee premium splits.

"This is a balanced, meaningful, fair and transparent reform that would allow cities and towns to save \$100 million in avoided health insurance costs," Beckwith said, asking the full House to "embrace it wholeheartedly."

Michael Widmer, president of the business-backed Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, also lauded the effort by House leaders "adjusting the excessively generous benefits" such as \$5 co-pays enjoyed by some municipal employees.

"This proposal is far and away the single most important step the Legislature can take to help municipalities manage their dire fiscal challenges," Widmer said in a statement. "Even with these changes, employees will receive excellent benefits that are at least on par with those offered by the state's Group Insurance Commission. Furthermore, even with modest increases in co-payments, many municipal employees will actually save money because of slower growing premiums."

The House budget also seeks \$789 million in savings to MassHealth – the state's Medicaid program - by adopting Patrick's plans to save \$350 million through procurement strategies, increased co-pays and benefit reductions such as a \$55 million cut to adult day health programs.

The Patrick administration announced Wednesday that procurement for Commonwealth Care providers has already netted \$80 million in savings as bids from managed care providers came in 5 percent lower than last fiscal year. Officials said these savings will allow the state to level fund the subsidized insurance program at \$822 million despite projections for enrollment to grow by 11 percent to 175,000 residents.

The House budget also adopted the savings strategy being pursued by the Group Insurance Commission through open enrollment that has incentivized employees to re-enroll in lower-cost health plans by offering a three-month "premium holiday."

-END- 04/14/2011

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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**

MCOANews: Legislative News – The FY12 Budget continues

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Preliminary Analysis: The House Ways & Means Fiscal Year 2012 Budget

April 13, 2011

With federal fiscal relief for states ending in Fiscal Year 2012, Massachusetts faces a budget gap of approximately \$1.9 billion (the gap between the cost of maintaining current services and the revenue expected to be available).

The House Ways & Means budget proposed today closes this gap primarily with cuts and savings. These reductions affect virtually all areas of government, from health care and public health, to local aid, funding for education, and human services.

[Preliminary Analysis: The House Ways & Means Fiscal Year 2012 Budget](#) provides an overview of spending proposals in various areas of the House Ways & Means budget. *MassBudget* will release a more detailed analysis of the House Ways & Means budget plan in a *Budget Monitor* next week.

The report is available at www.massbudget.org or by clicking [here](#).

See *MassBudget's* [Budget Browser](#) to explore Massachusetts state budgets from Fiscal Year 2001 to the present, as well as budget proposals for the next fiscal year as they are offered by the Governor and the Legislature.

MassBudget provides independent research and analysis of state budget and tax policies, as well as economic issues, with particular attention to the effects on low- and moderate-income people.

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Fiscal Fallout: The Great Recession, Policy Choices, & State Budget Cuts -- An Update for Fiscal Year 2012

April 3, 2011

When Fiscal Year 2012 begins, Massachusetts will enter the fourth budget year shaped by the worst national recession since the Great Depression. Communities and families across the Commonwealth have been feeling the effects of deep cuts in government funding for education, health care, public safety, safety net programs, and other services that people count on.

A new *MassBudget* report examines the budget cuts already enacted since the onset of the current economic downturn, and those proposed in the Governor's FY 2012 budget.

The report, [FISCAL FALLOUT: The Great Recession, Policy Choices, & State Budget Cuts - An Update for Fiscal Year 2012](#), is available at www.massbudget.org or by clicking [here](#).

Individual fact sheets are available by clicking on [Early Education and Care](#); [Chapter 70 Education Aid](#); [K-12 Education \(Not Including Chapter 70\) & School Building](#); [Higher Education](#); [Environment and Recreation](#); [MassHealth \(Medicaid\) & Health Reform](#); [Public Health](#); [Mental Health](#); [Human Services](#); [Housing](#); [Economic Development](#); [Law & Public Safety](#); [Local Aid & Libraries](#); and [State Employee Health Insurance](#).

See *MassBudget's* [Budget Browser](#) to explore Massachusetts state budgets from Fiscal Year 2001 to the present, as well as budget proposals for the next fiscal year as they are offered by the Governor and the Legislature.

MassBudget provides independent research and analysis of state budget and tax policies, as well as economic issues, with particular attention to the effects on low- and moderate-income people.

MCOANews: Legislative News – NCOA Week

April 12, 2011



[New FY12 Budget Plan Drastically Cuts Medicare, Medicaid](#)

The House will vote this week on a FY12 Budget Resolution that would dismantle and drastically cut Medicare and Medicaid. The proposal from the House Budget Committee would significantly boost Medicare out-of-pocket expenses; cut Medicaid by almost \$1.4 trillion over 10 years and turn it into a block grant; and cut funding for jobs, housing, and volunteer opportunities for older Americans in need. Please tell your Representative to vote NO. [Send an email now »](#) <https://secure3.convio.net/ncoa/site/Advocacy?page=UserActionInactive&id=215>

SCSEP, Section 202 Cut Under FY11 Budget Deal

Congress is scheduled to vote this week on legislation to fund the federal government for the remaining six months of FY11. The compromise reached late Friday makes historic cuts totaling \$38.5 billion, and programs providing jobs and housing for vulnerable older adults were not spared. The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) was cut by 45% (from \$825 million to \$450 million) and the Section 202 Housing for the Elderly program was cut by 51% (from \$825 million to \$400 million). Total funding for the Corporation for National Service was reduced by about 6%. [See a table of FY11 funding](#)— <http://www.ncoa.org/assets/files/pdf/FY11-CRs-030411.pdf> then visit our *One Away* campaign to [tell Congress to protect older workers »](http://www.oneaway.org/Tell-Congress) <http://www.oneaway.org/Tell-Congress>

[Free Webinar: Giving Voice to Older Adults in Need](#)

With the federal budget battle heating up—and critical seniors' programs on the chopping block—now is the time to make sure that older adults' voices are heard. Join us on April 19 for a free webinar on NCOA's *One Away* campaign for elder economic security. Discover how *One Away* gives the seniors you serve a chance to share their stories of struggle with Congress—and how you can use *One Away* messages to influence policymakers. [Register »](#) <https://cc.readytalk.com/cc/s/meetingArchive?eventId=jqx9ju35t5x>



[OAA Reauthorization: Nearly 100 Recommendations and Counting!](#)

The Leadership Council of Aging Organizations has released its consensus document of recommendations for the Older Americans Act (OAA) reauthorization this year. NCOA and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging led the effort of compiling, debating, and negotiating dozens of potential ideas over eight months. The resulting set of nearly 100 recommendations will serve as a vital resource for advocates and legislators as reauthorization gains momentum. You can find the LCAO document and the recording of our OAA webinar last week on NCOA.org. [Explore OAA resources »](#)

MCOANews: Legislative News –Federal Budget Cuts



SENATE PRESIDENT SOUNDS ALARM ON FEDERAL BUDGET CUTS
By Matt Murphy
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, APRIL 13, 2011.... As state officials sort through billions of dollars in proposed cuts to the federal budget to gauge their impact on Massachusetts, Senate President Therese Murray on Wednesday blasted national Republicans for embracing a long-term budget plan that calls for a major overhaul of Medicare and slashes trillions in spending over the next decade. She said she worried that the cuts would trickle down to the state level, jeopardizing access to health care for younger residents and impacting the state's ability to provide health coverage to low-income residents just as Massachusetts celebrates the anniversary of a reform law that has helped the state post a 98 percent insured rate. "I just think it's outrageous and I don't understand why people aren't standing up and saying what are you doing?" Murray told the News Service in an interview. "You're going to get rid of Medicare and you're going to give me a voucher instead? Where is the outrage over this? I'm outraged. I'm totally outraged about this. The middle class is already disappearing. Now you're going to take it further." Murray was referring to a plan put forward by U.S. House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, a Republican representative from Wisconsin, who has proposed a federal budget plan starting in fiscal 2012 that would slash \$6.2 trillion in spending over the next decade. Ryan's proposal seeks to replace Medicare for individuals currently under 55 with vouchers to purchase private insurance, and begins funding states with block grants to cover Medicaid instead of the current 50-50 reimbursement system. President Barack Obama countered on Wednesday with a proposal of his own to eliminate \$4 trillion in spending over 12 years that included eliminating tax-breaks from the Bush-era for Americans earning over \$200,000. "I'm extremely concerned, and I'm even more concerned about what will be the final budget they will iron out. Block grants? Excuse me, if you say you're going to give a state a block grant based on its history, that will kill us. That will mean like \$1 billion a year for us easy just on health care," Murray said.

Last Friday the White House, Senate Democrats, and House Republicans announced a budget accord that avoided a shutdown of the federal government with \$38.5 billion in cuts to federal spending over the next six months.

The agreement was only a prelude to budget battle looming over the fiscal 2012 budget and the need agreed to by both parties to address the long-term debt facing the nation.

Since that deal was struck, state officials have been scrambling to ascertain how those cuts would affect state programs funded with federal dollars for this fiscal budget year and beyond. Officials in the Patrick administration said Wednesday they were still gathering information from different state agencies to get a handle on the impact.

Murray said it was still unclear if those cuts would impact the state's fiscal 2011 budget, which closes on June 30, three months before the federal fiscal year ends, and was anticipating a briefing from the Patrick administration when figures were available.

Broad details of the cuts at the federal level were released publicly on Tuesday as the House prepares to vote on the continuing budget resolution tomorrow.

As details of the cuts were released Tuesday, Democrats highlighted programs and services protected from the budget scalpel and Republicans in Congress applauded the money being eliminated from the budget as they continue to press the importance of reducing the federal deficit.

Four of the state's 10 members in the U.S. House of Representatives voted against the resolution that included \$2 billion in cuts to keep the government running through Thursday, including Reps. Edward Markey, Michael Capuano, James McGovern and Barney Frank.

Ryan applauded the bipartisan agreement and the "retreat from their reckless spending spree," but said more must be done having already warned that debt interest, health care and Social Security would consume nearly the entire federal budget in 15 years at current growth rates.

Critics of the deal struck between the White House and Congressional leaders have argued that the cuts disproportionately affect the poor and working class while the wealthiest Americans continue to receive tax breaks.

"(Ryan's) not really cutting because then he's giving a tax break to the wealthy that equals that," Murray said.

Murray said if the federal government focused on eliminating waste and fraud with Medicare, and gave forensic accounts the funding to target those abuses, savings could be squeezed out of the massive program.

"There is waste in Medicare. I think they claim as much as 30 percent in waste and mostly fraud. If they just put some forensic accounts in place and look at Medicare they will recoup that back instead of taking these programs away from the American people," Murray said.

Murray also said Ryan's plan to put states on a budget by funding Medicaid through block grants instead of reimbursing state's half the cost of covering low-income residents would hit Massachusetts harder than "certain southern states that don't cover a lot of their poor."

"It could very significantly affect us," Murray said.

According to WBZ 1030-AM, Ryan is scheduled as the guest at 8 p.m. Wednesday on its NightSide program.

Rep. Shaunna O'Connell, a freshman Republican from Taunton, said she agreed with national Republicans that spending is out of control, and like Murray pointed to waste and abuse in Medicare and Medicaid as possible targets.

"We just can't afford the money we're spending at this point so it's incumbent upon us to make the cuts in the right places, to cut wasteful spending. That is the biggest. We talk about Medicare fraud, Medicaid fraud, and that is one place we can find so much money. We need to go there," O'Connell said.

Rep. Todd Smola (R-Palmer) said cutting spending was necessary, even though he predicted the effects would surely trickle down to the state budget.

"Without a doubt, whatever happens on the federal level all of that filters down to what happens here at the state level, so there is not good news in Mudville," Smola said. "But I think the cuts are definitely necessary. Where are we going to get the money from?"

Smola said state leaders, not unlike federal officials, have been "kicking the can down the road for too long" pointing to proposals from Gov. Deval Patrick to extend the pension funding schedule by 15 years as an example of the unwillingness at all levels of government to make tough spending choices.

Rep. Ryan Fattman (R-Sutton) said Ryan's proposal might not be perfect, but called attention to a serious problem.

"Four billion dollars a day is what the federal government spends. In nine days, that's the state budget of Massachusetts. That's more than the state budget of Massachusetts. Think about that. That to me is unfathomable," Fattman said.

-END- 04/13/2011 Serving the working press since 1910 <http://www.statehousenews.com>

Raising Medicare's Age of Eligibility

Raising Medicare's Age of Eligibility to 67 Would Achieve Significant Savings — But Shift Costs To 65- and 66-Year-Olds, Other Individuals, Employers and Medicaid, New Analysis Shows.

Courtesy Diane Paulson, Medicare Advocacy Project, 197 Friend Street, Boston MA

News Article: <http://www.mcoonline.com/content/wellness/medicare.php>

MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiries

Outreach – Cold Calls ?

I am curious as to how other COAs are doing outreach to seniors in the community that you have never served before? Is anyone using the phone to do "cold calls"? Would you be willing to share the questions or tools that you use to outreach to these individuals? Thanks, Meg Pascucci, Assistant Director, Beverly COA
mpascucci@beverlyma.gov

In Center Companion Programs ?

We are thinking about implementing an in-center companion program, for those seniors that may need a little extra cueing and reminders while they are here, but may not be fully ready for an adult day program yet? Has anyone done anything like this or have any experience with a model like this? Thanks, Meg Pascucci, Assistant Director, Beverly COA mpascucci@beverlyma.gov

Medicaid Transportation ?

Do any COAs have a contract to provide Medicaid transportation? If so, I'd love to chat with them. My e-mail: syager@th.ci.shrewsbury.ma.us — Thanks! Sharon Yager, Shrewsbury COA

Board Treasurer outline of duties ?

I am looking for a job description or an outline of duties for a Treasurer of a COA Board of Directors. If your COA has something like this and you are willing to share, please email to: GThieme@wellesleyma.gov or Fax 781-239-0394 — Thank you!

Gayle Thieme, LSW, Director of Senior Services, Wellesley Council on Aging

Anyone need a pool table ?

I have a \$2500 pool table with blue cover for sale for \$500.

Thank you, Joan Linnehan — jlinnehan@agawam.ma.us

Director, Agawam COA, 954 Main Street, Agawam MA 01001 — 413-821-0604/5

Board Member Orientation Materials ?

As former COA exec. dir. and now chair of the COA in Lexington. I need some help! I'm looking for a job description for COA Board members. Does anyone have a standard list of things to include for new board members in an orientation packet? It would be nice to avoid repetition and include new ideas.

Marilyn Campbell, Chair, Lexington COA Board — mcampbell200@comcast.net

Outreach wages/hours per week ?

Would you please ask what are current hourly wages and hours per week for local COA outreach workers?

Thank you, Joan Linnehan — jlinnehan@agawam.ma.us

Director, Agawam COA, 954 Main Street, Agawam MA 01001 — 413-821-0604/5

Combined VA / Senior Ctr Buildings ?

How many towns have a combined Senior Center and Veterans Services building?

Thanks, John Magnani.

Please respond to Jan Timmons, Director, Sandwich Council on Aging, 270 Quaker Meetinghouse Road E. Sandwich, MA 02537 — 508-888-4737 — 508-833-9154 (fax)

Friends Group Startup & Age limits ?

I was looking for any information on how to guide individuals who would like to start a friends group. Mine disbanded last year and I have had several people request to start a new one. Is there any reason that residents under 60 can't join? Thank you, Alyssa Graveson, Douglas Senior Center Director,

331 Main Street, P.O.BOX 1295, Douglas, MA 01516 — 508-476- 2283 — 508-476-0116

agraveson@douglasma.org

MCOA Briefs: Job Opportunities

ABCD, Inc. – Director-Elder Services

Responsible for developing and managing a wide range of programs and services designed to support the welfare and independence of older Boston residents.

Full Posting: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/jobs/index.php>

Dedham COA – COA Director

Please send resume, letter of interest and names of three (3) professional references to Town Administrator, Town of Dedham, Town Office Building, 26 Bryant Street, Dedham, MA 02026

no later than May 6, 2011 or by e-mail to nbaker@dedham-ma.gov

MCOA News You Should Use:

Link to Medicare Watch Newsletter

Courtesy Diane Paulson, Medicare Advocacy Project, 197 Friend Street, Boston MA

Medicare Watch: <http://www.medicarerights.org/issues-actions/medicare-watch.php>

Medicare Fact Sheet Release

CMS issues final 2012 policies for Medicare drug and health plans

Most policy and technical changes effective in 60 days

Press Release: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/wellness/medicare.php>

Senior Site at AFB – Sight and Aging

Senior Site at American Foundation for the Blind — Preventing Falls by Adapting Your Home

As we age, a great many things we once took for granted can become hazardous. This is certainly true when it comes to navigating one's home. A simple fall in the bathroom, on the stairs, or almost anywhere could be life threatening to anyone of advanced age. Vision loss increases the risk of falling, as well as one's vulnerability to injury. Courtesy Linn Morrill, MDPH — <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/wellness/vision.php>

Financial Exploitation of the Elderly

Last month, the U.S. Department of the Treasury Financial Crimes Enforcement Network released a new advisory to help financial institutions spot and report activities involving elder financial exploitation. Courtesy Emmett Schmarsow, EOE Program Manager

Financial Exploitation Advisory: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/consumer/index.php>

Free Reverse Mortgage Counseling

NCOA offers Free Reverse Mortgage Counseling for Older Homeowners

Courtesy Linn Morrill, MDPH — <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/consumer/mortgage.php>

Discover the MCOA Bulletin Board

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

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

May is Older Americans Month —

U.S. Administration on Aging

Visit their website to review useful materials for your Council on Aging!

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Observances/2011/Older_Americans.aspx

MCOA Briefs: News You Should Use:

[Chronic Disease Workshop Goes National](#)

Individuals with chronic conditions such as arthritis, diabetes, heart disease, or high blood pressure can now sign up for a free online workshop to help them learn how to manage their symptoms and take control of their health. With support from sanofi-aventis and the Atlantic Philanthropies, NCOA is making Better Choices, Better Health™ available in all 50 states. The six-week workshop is the online version of Stanford University's Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, which has been proven to help people increase their confidence, exercise more, and improve their health. [See how to sign up >](#)
http://www.ncoa.org/improving-health/chronic-disease/better-choices-better-health.html?utm_source=NCOAWeek_110419&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=NCOAWeek

CLASS IS IN SESSION WITH SOCIAL SECURITY WEBINARS

You've probably been on the web, and it's likely that you've attended a seminar. But have you ever attended a "webinar?" We recommend that you do.

Social Security offers a selection of webinars at www.socialsecurity.gov/webinars. You're invited to attend any of them, anytime. Class is always in session — past webinars are available for you to view at any time. The information can be valuable, but the cost is free.

There are webinars on benefits for wounded warriors, applying for retirement online, extra help with Medicare prescription drug costs, and more.

The two recent webinars on the page are on timely topics.

- **How Some Public Employee or Teacher Pensions May Affect Social Security Benefits.**
In this webinar, we walk you through how the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) may affect Social Security benefits of workers whose employers do not withhold Social Security taxes from their salary, such as some school systems and some local, State and Federal government agencies.
- **Ticket to Work.** Do you receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits? Thousands of SSI and SSDI beneficiaries have learned how to stay in control of their benefits while enriching their lives through employment. You can join them by participating in a 90-minute Work Incentive Seminar Event (WISE) Webinar to learn about available incentives, including those offered through the Ticket to Work program.

If you visit www.socialsecurity.gov/webinars, you'll find all of the webinars instantly accessible. Any upcoming webinars will be at the top of the page with information on the date, time, and how to register to participate in the webinar live. Once the webinar has taken place, it will be available for anyone to revisit as a resource. Hit the virtual classroom with a Social Security webinar. Classes begin at www.socialsecurity.gov/webinars.

Discover the MCOA Bulletin Board

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

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

Newsletter Highlights:

Ruth Anne Bleakney has volunteered to resume her column that highlights new and unique programs and activities that are described in your monthly newsletters. Please put Ruth Ann on your mailing lists to receive copies of your newsletter. If there is something specific that you wish her to highlight – contact her directly.

Milford COA	Ruth Anne Bleakney	msc@worldband.net	60 North Bow Street	Milford, MA 01757-3405
Tel: (508)473-8334		Fax: (508)634-2339		

MCOA Briefs: News You Should Use, continued



MCPHS
pharmacy outreach program

866.633.1617 • www.massmedline.com

MCPHS Pharmacy Outreach Program – Help With Your Medications and So Much More

Are you worried about the cost of your prescription medications? Wondering what your medications are for and what their possible side effects may be? Help from *The Pharmacy Outreach Program's* MassMedLine is just a phone call away!

The Pharmacy Outreach Program is a community service program of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences located in Worcester, Massachusetts. Our staff includes pharmacists and case managers who assist residents throughout the state. Our services include: a toll free MassMedLine, **1-866-633-1617**, walk in services by appointment, and our web site, www.massmedline.com.

During these difficult economic times, many people struggle with the cost of their medications and this leads to difficult choices that have to be made. *We can help.* Our case management team will work with you, individually, to determine your needs and try to find ways to meet them. Many programs offer financial assistance to people who are in need. State and federal programs, including Medicare and Prescription Advantage, private foundations, and pharmaceutical company patient assistance programs may be able to provide you with some help. There are also clinics and medication assistance programs in some local communities that are able to help with immediate medication needs. We will work with you to evaluate your eligibility for these programs and services.

Many people have questions about their medications such as: “What is this medication for?” “When is the best time of day to take my medication?” “Does my medication have side effects?” “Do my over the counter or herbal medications interact with my prescription drugs?” Pharmacy Outreach Program pharmacists can answer your questions. A complete review of your medications is provided, including how and when to take them, possible ways to lower your medication costs and much more.

Give us a call at 1-866-633-1617, visit our web site, www.massmedline.com, or make an appointment to meet with someone at our Center in Worcester, MA. We would happy to talk with you.



Hello, Friends of the Partnership --

The Executive Committee is exploring new ways to offer a greater variety of learning opportunities for Partnership members. One new format will be learning circles: occasional small forums of people involved in similar work. We'd like your input on what sort of forum you might participate in. Please take our short survey — it will take only a minute of your time, maybe less: [Partnership survey.](http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22C45M4EBER/)

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22C45M4EBER/>

The Partnership's success depends upon people like you to let us know what you need from us to assist you in your important work in healthcare and your communities. Thank you in advance for taking the survey. Our Annual Meeting will be on June 3 - watch for details coming soon! And, as always, let us know if you have questions or concerns.

Peggy Kocoras, Coordinator Partnership for a Heart-Healthy, Stroke-Free Massachusetts
P. O. Box 63, Wheelwright, MA 01094-0063 508-656-2081 * contact@heartstrokema.org
www.HeartStrokeMA.org

MCOA Briefs: News You Should Use: From Emmett Schmarsow/EOEA

Dear Colleagues,

This monthly release is long on medical approaches and (technical aspects of) common sense and like notions with regard to healthy aging. Various items of interest have been highlighted.

s/ Emmett Schmarsow, Prog. Mgr. COAs & Senior Centers

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Announces the Partnership for Patients

Partnership for Patients is a new national public-private partnership with the goals of:

* **Keeping patients from getting injured or sicker.** By the end of 2013, preventable hospital-acquired conditions would decrease by 40% compared to 2010. Achieving this goal would mean approximately 1.8 million fewer injuries to patients, with more than 60,000 lives saved over the next three years.

* **Helping patients heal without complication.** By the end of 2013, preventable complications during a transition from one care setting to another would be decreased so that all hospital readmissions would be reduced by 20% compared to 2010. Achieving this goal would mean more than 1.6 million patients will recover from illness without suffering a preventable complication requiring re-hospitalization within 30 days of discharge.

Through the Community-based Care Transition Program, HHS has committed \$500 million to community-based organizations partnering with eligible hospitals to help people with Medicare safely transition between settings of care. Today, community-based organizations and acute care hospitals that partner with community-based organizations can begin submitting applications for this funding. Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis. Awards will be made on an ongoing basis as funding permits. In addition, in coordination with stakeholders from across the health care system, the CMS Innovation Center is planning to use up to \$500 million in additional funding to test different models of improving patient care and patient engagement and collaboration in order to reduce hospital-acquired conditions and improve care transitions nationwide.

The aging network – state and local organizations alike -- has a vital role to play in this effort to integrate medical and long-term supports and services and improve care transitions for our clients and their families. This work also provide an excellent opportunity to integrate other important work you are already doing – including Aging and Disability Resource Centers, benefits outreach and enrollment, caregiving and respite programs, chronic disease self-management and other health promotion/disease prevention programs, and more. Finally, the partnerships that you build through care transitions work – with hospitals, physician practices, long-term care facilities and other organizations – can also help to position you better for future ACA-related opportunities such as accountable care organizations, health homes, patient-centered medical homes, and more.

To learn more about the Partnership for Patients and join the partnership, visit the Partnership website at <http://www.healthcare.gov/center/programs/partnership>. For additional details about the Partnership for Patients and the Community-based Care Transition Program (CCTP), read the special Affordable Care Act Newsletter at http://www.aoa.gov/Aging_Statistics/docs/ACA_Enews_P4P_041211.pdf

I. Resources and Announcements

AoA Highlights the Work of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

From its beginning, the Administration on Aging (AoA) and its state and local networks have counted on volunteer support. Each year about ten million older people use Older Americans Act services, whose delivery largely depends upon the efforts of half a million volunteers. This year the AoA is highlighting the work of one group of extraordinary and committed volunteers – the more than 11,000 volunteers who serve long-term care residents through their state's Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. More than three-fourths of states use volunteers to support the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, ensuring the rights, safety, and well-being of residents of nursing facilities, assisted living communities, board and care homes and similar facilities. Last year, more than 8,800 of these volunteers were trained and certified as long-term care ombudsmen, resolving complaints with and on behalf of residents. Volunteer ombudsmen visit and listen to residents' concerns as well as problem-solve. Many residents of long-term care facilities sometimes have little or no contact with the outside world and some have few visitors. An ombudsman volunteer who visits regularly can make a huge difference in the quality of life of a resident. If you are interested in serving as an ombudsman volunteer, you can contact the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program in your state for more information about volunteer opportunities and qualifications. A good way to locate contact information is through the National Ombudsman Resource Center at www.ltombudsman.org

MCOA Briefs: News You Should Use: From Emmett Schmarsow/EOEA, cont'd

AoA Encourages Civic Engagement

Volunteers help the aging network in many other ways, including: assisting at group meals sites and delivering meals to home-bound elders; escorting and transporting frail older persons to health care services and grocery shopping; weatherizing the homes of low-income and frail older persons; counseling older persons in a variety of areas including health promotion, nutrition, legal and financial concerns; detecting and preventing health care fraud; and helping during disasters. For more information about the wide variety of rewarding volunteering opportunities to benefit older Americans, check out the Administration on Aging Civic Engagement section at

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/Special_Projects/Civic_Engagement/index.aspx#resources

Drug Enforcement Administration's Second National Drug Take Back Day

The purpose of this National Take Back Day is to provide a safe and secure location for persons who wanted to dispose of unwanted and unused prescription drugs. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), in conjunction with state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the United States, conducted the first ever National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, September 25, 2010. The Second National Drug Take Back Day, scheduled for April 30, 2011, is a great opportunity for those who missed the first event or who have subsequently accumulated unwanted, unused prescription drugs, to safely dispose of them. This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. More than seven million Americans currently abuse prescription drugs, according to the 2009 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Each day, approximately, 2,500 teens use prescription drugs to get high for the first time according to the Partnership for a Drug Free America. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including the home medicine cabinet. There are also environmental consequences of disposal of unused medications. Drugs that are dumped down drains and toilets can end up in our lakes, streams, and watersheds. By participating in the drug take-back day you will protect public health and safety and protect the environment. Further information about the second National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, including a link to locate a collection site near you can be found at

http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html

Enhancing Use of Clinical Preventive Services Among Adults: Closing the Gap

Despite 90 percent of Medicare beneficiaries visiting a physician at least once a year and making an average of six visits annually, many do not receive the full range of recommended preventive services. The recently released CDC, Administration on Aging, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Report, *Enhancing Use of Clinical Preventive Services Among Older Adults: Closing the Gap*, highlights self-reported data magnifying critical gaps and opportunities for increasing the use of clinical preventive services, particularly among the underserved. At the core of the Report are eight indicators for monitoring the use of clinical preventive services among adults aged 65 and older: two vaccinations that protect against influenza and pneumococcal disease; five screenings for early detection of breast cancer, colorectal cancer, diabetes, lipid disorders, and osteoporosis; and one counseling service for smoking cessation. It provides a baseline of data through which to monitor progress in ensuring recommended services reach this key population. The Report also offers examples of recent activities and interventions focused on community actions designed to build awareness, create environments that offer convenient access to services, and adopt public policies to increase access and uptake of services. To view the report, as well as a chart listing state-by-state data for key indicators featured in the report (see Appendix B), please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/aging>.

Kaiser Family Foundation Webinar to Discuss DHHS Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities

The Kaiser Family Foundation's next live, interactive webcast in its Today's Topics in Health Disparities series on Monday, April 25, at 1 p.m. ET will examine the new Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. The program will address the contents of the strategy and its timeline for implementation as well as its implications for providers. The panelists will also discuss how the new strategy relates to other federal efforts and to health reform implementation. The panelists also discuss how the new strategy relates to other recently released HHS strategies including the National Strategy for Quality Improvement in Health Care, the National Prevention and Health Promotion Strategy, the Healthy People 2020 initiative and the National HIV/AIDS Strategy for the United States. Panelists also consider what the strategy's role as it relates to health reform implementation. The panelists will take questions from viewers, which may be submitted before or during the live program to ask@kff.org. The Director of the Disparities Policy Project at the Kaiser Family Foundation, Cara James, Ph.D., will moderate the discussion with Garth Graham, MD, MPH, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health, United States Department of Health and Human Services, Carolyn Clancy, MD, Director, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, United States Department of Health and Human Services, and Herbert Smitherman, Jr., MD, MPH, FACP, Assistant Dean of Community and Urban Health, and Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, Wayne State University School of Medicine, and President and CEO, Health Centers Detroit Foundation, Inc. To view the webinar, please visit

http://www.kff.org/minorityhealth/todaysttopics_hhs_042111.cfm

MCOA Briefs: News You Should Use: From Emmett Schmarsow/EOEA, cont'd

.LTQA Report Highlights Communities Working Together to Improve Care Transitions

The Long Term Quality Alliance (LTQA) recently released report, Innovative Communities: Breaking Down Barriers for the Good of Older Consumers and Their Family Caregivers features case studies of how three communities in the United States are working together to improve care transitions and reduce avoidable hospitalizations. To read the report in its entirety, please go to <http://www.ltqa.org/wp-content/themes/ltqaMain/custom/images//Innovative-Communities-Report-Final-0216111.pdf>

NIHSeniorHealth.gov Offers Information About Long-Term Care

When people hear the words "long-term care," they often think only of nursing homes, but long-term care includes much more. Personal care, home health care, transportation services and adult day care are all long-term care services, and they can be critical to an older person's health care. Find information on the range of long-term care services available and suggestions about planning for future needs on NIHSeniorHealth, the health and wellness website for older adults from the National Institute on Aging. To read about long-term care, visit NIHSeniorHealth at <http://www.nihseniorhealth.gov/longtermcare/toc.html>

Older Americans Month 2011 Materials Now Available

The Older Americans Month 2011 theme is "Older Americans: Connecting the Community". The theme pays homage to the many ways in which older adults bring inspiration and continuity to the fabric of our communities. The Administration on Aging is pleased to provide materials to assist partners at the national, state, and local levels plan for activities in commemoration of Older Americans Month. Information on upcoming Administration on Aging activities to celebrate Older Americans Month will be coming soon. To view and download the Older Americans Month 2011 logo and poster in both English and Spanish, as well as other materials, please visit: <http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/PressRoom/Observances/2011/OlderAmericans.aspx>. To view the U.S. Census Bureau's updated *Facts for Features* with interesting information regarding older adults in the U.S., please see http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb11-ff08.html

II. Funding and Award Opportunities

5th Annual Excellence in Building Healthy Communities for Active Aging Award

This award recognizes communities for their outstanding comprehensive approaches to implementing principles of smart growth, as well as strategies that support active aging. This award will be presented to communities with the best and most inclusive overall approach to implementing smart growth and active aging on a variety of fronts, at the neighborhood, tribe, city, county, and/or regional level. Two types of awards will be made—the Commitment Award and the Achievement Award. The Commitment Award recognizes communities that have developed and begun to initiate a specific plan to implement smart growth and active aging principles. The Achievement Award will be given for overall excellence in building healthy communities for active aging. Applicants must be public-sector entities in the United States and coordinate with their local Area Agency on Aging. Public-sector entities include all levels of elected governments, from city councils to state legislatures and their subdivisions such as planning departments and other executive branch divisions. *Deadline: July 11, 2011* <http://www.epa.gov/aging/bhc/awards/index.htm>

Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health: Community Grants Program

A new Community Grants program from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) called Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health (MATCH) will help spark action in communities to address the many factors that influence health. As the County Health Rankings illustrate, social and economic factors such as education and employment can affect health directly and indirectly, and those negative effects may accumulate over individuals' lifetimes and continue unbroken through generations. The first round of the Community Grants program is open to communities that are ready to take action to address the social and economic factors that affect health—factors which have a significant impact on health outcomes, yet are often ignored in community health improvement activities.

Deadline: April 27, 2011 http://www.rwjf.org/applications/solicited/cfp.jsp?ID=21351&cid=XEM_2601352

Connecting Generations Video Challenge Sponsored by the U.S. Administration on Aging

The U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA) is pleased to announce the Connecting Generations Video Challenge in celebration of Older Americans Month 2011. The Challenge will bring together multiple generations to create videos featuring the roles our seniors play in connecting us all. Anyone can participate by joining an intergenerational team—including at least one person age 60 or older and one person younger than 60—to produce a video. In the videos, teams will share their perspectives on how older Americans maintain and strengthen connections in our communities. From videos about seniors using technology to connect with others to older adults assisting in schools, any video that demonstrates what seniors are doing to maintain and strengthen community connections is a candidate for this contest. AoA will post contest entries online, where participants can view and comment on all the videos. A panel of judges will select the top 10 entries, and the general public will then vote for the winner from the finalists.

Deadline: May 2, 2011 <http://www.olderamericansmonth.org/>

MCOA Briefs: News You Should Use: From Emmett Schmarsow/EOEA, cont'd

AoA Announces Availability of Approximately \$2.25 Million for Lifespan Respite Care Programs

The U.S. Administration on Aging (AoA) is announcing the availability of approximately \$2.25 million for implementation of the requirements of the Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2006. These projects will enable states to establish, enhance or expand Lifespan Respite Care systems, including new and planned emergency respite services, training and recruitment of respite workers and volunteers and assist caregivers with gaining access to needed respite services. Under the 2011 "Lifespan Respite Care Program" announcement, AoA will award up to 12 grants to states with federal funding up to \$200,000 each for three-year project periods. AoA will fund projects that propose to serve all eligible respite recipients, including family members, foster parents, or other adults providing unpaid care to adults needing care to meet basic daily needs or prevent injury and to children who require care beyond that required to meet their basic needs. Over the course of these projects, states will work to expand and enhance respite care services to family members; improve the statewide dissemination and coordination of respite care; and provide, supplement, or improve access and quality of respite care services to family caregivers, thereby reducing family caregiver strain. This is a limited grant competition. Awards will only be made to eligible state agencies who: administer the states program under the Older Americans Act of 1965; or administer title XIX of the social Security Act; or are designated by the Governor of the state to administer the State's programs under this title who are an aging and disability resource center working in collaboration with a state respite coalition or organization, AND who are not currently funded under the Lifespan Respite Care Program.

Letter of Intent Deadline: April 25, 2011 Final Deadline: May 20, 2011

<http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Grants/Funding/index.aspx>

Nominations for Caregiver Friendly Awards 2011

Today's Caregiver magazine and caregiver.com are seeking nominations for this year's Caregiver Friendly Awards. Launched in 2002, the Caregiver Friendly Awards program celebrates products, services, programs, books and media designed with the needs of caregivers in mind. Entries in the services and programs category have included insurance, medical, EAP, Area Agency on Aging, and care/case management programs as well as programs and services provided by long-term care facilities, homecare and transportation services and non-profit agencies. Award winners will be recognized at *Today's Caregiver* magazine's annual Fearless Caregiver Conference in Fort Lauderdale, FL and will be highlighted on caregiver.com and in *Today's Caregiver Magazine*.

Deadline: May 9, 2011 <http://www.caregiver.com>

Translational Research to Help Older Adults Maintain Their Health and Independence in the Community

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) and the Administration on Aging (AoA) invite applications using the R01 award mechanism for translational research that moves evidence-based research findings towards the development of new interventions, programs, policies, practices, and tools that can be used by community-based organizations to help elderly individuals remain healthy and independent, and living in their own homes and communities. The goal of this FOA is to support translational research involving collaborations between academic research centers and community-based organizations with expertise serving the elderly (such as city and state health departments, city/town leadership councils, and Area Agencies on Aging) that will enhance our understanding of practical tools, techniques, programs and policies that communities across the nation can use to more effectively respond to needs of their aging populations.

Earliest submission date: May 5, 2011 Announcement Expires: May 8, 2014

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-11-123.html>

2011 Rachel Carson Poetry, Essay, Photography and Dance Contest

The 5th Annual Rachel Carson Intergenerational Sense of Wonder Contest is underway. Teams may submit a poem, an essay, photograph or a dance video that captures the sense of wonder you see, hear, and feel in nature. Entries must be developed by a multi-generational team of two or more individuals-with at least one each representing the younger and older generations. The contest seeks to spur and instill that same sense of wonder among all generations. Teams will share through one of these distinct mediums their own interactions and reflections on the wonders of nature. Mixed media entries are also welcome, such as a photo accompanied with a poem or essay. Dance video entries can be of performers or capture movements and visible changes in nature from dawn to dusk.

Deadline: June 10, 2011 <http://www.epa.gov/aging/resources/thesenseofwonder/index.htm>

III. Articles and Reports

A CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR):

QuickStats: Age-Adjusted Death Rates --- United States, 2008

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6014a4.htm?s_cid=mm6014a4_e%0d%0a

MCOA Briefs: News You Should Use: From Emmett Schmarsow/EOEA, cont'd

Death Rates After Hospitalization Down for Oldest Heart Failure Patients

"Death rates after hospitalization for heart failure have dropped for veterans age 80 and older, but rehospitalizations remain frequent (By Karen Astle, American Heart Association via EurekAlert!, April 5, 2011) http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2011-04/aha-dra033111.php

Frailty Not a Factor in Adverse Drug Reactions Among Seniors, Study Finds

"The greatest risk factor for an adverse drug reaction was the number of new medications that had been added recently to a patient's medication regimen" (By Steve Tokar, University of California – San Francisco via EurekAlert!, April 6, 2011) http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2011-04/uoc--fna040611.php

Glaucoma Patients Report a Wide Range of Emotional and Psychological Changes

"Fear of the unknown and concerns about other family members common" (By Annette Whibley, Wiley-Blackwell via EurekAlert!, April 11, 2011) http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2011-04/w-gpr041111.php

MRI Scans May Help Predict Alzheimer's Risk

"For people with mild cognitive impairment, imaging might yield important clues, researchers say" (By Maureen Salamon, HealthDay News, April 7, 2011) <http://consumer.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=651646>

...sclerosis loss as they age"

(By Jessica Soulliere, University of Michigan Health System via EurekAlert!, March 31, 2011) http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2011-03/uomh-oas033111.php

...n's patients"

(By Sharon Boston, University of Maryland Medical Center via EurekAlert!, April 12, 2011) http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2011-04/uomm-pes040411.php

Penn Study Sheds Light on End of Life Management of Implanted Defibrillators

"Heart patients share perspectives on deactivation, donation and reuse of devices" (By Jessica Mikulski, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine via EurkeAlert!, April 5, 2011) http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2011-04/uops-pss040511.php

"'Cold sores' connected to cognitive decline" (By David Orenstein, Brown University via EurkeAlert!, April 4, 2011) http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2011-04/bu-rlh040411.php

...%, say Taiwanese researchers" (By Amanda Gardner, HealthDay News, April 7, 2011) <http://consumer.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=651687>

...elevation in mortality risk" (By Emilee McStay, American Academy of Sleep Medicine via EurekAlert!, April 1, 2011) http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2011-04/aaos-rod032911.php

Study Sheds Light on Memory Loss

"The development could aid research into treatments for age-related memory disorders" (By Tara Womersley, University of Edinburgh, April 6, 2011) <http://www.ed.ac.uk/news/all-news/memory-060411>

UCSF Study on Multitasking Reveals Switching Glitch in Aging Brain

"Scientists at the University of California, San Francisco have pinpointed a reason older adults have a harder time multitasking than younger adults" (By Jennifer O'Brien, University of California – San Francisco via EurekAlert!, April 11, 2011) http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2011-04/uoc--uso040711.php

Thanks,
Stephanie
CDC
www.cdc.gov/aging



KEEP MOVING REGISTRATION

Walking Club Leader Trainings

The benefits of walking on a regular basis are rewarding to your health and spirit, and the camaraderie of a group will keep you walking on a regular basis. A *Keep Moving* leader-training event is being offered. If you, or someone you know, is interested in starting a walking club, participating in training will prepare you to recruit walkers and start a club. Clubs leaders who already lead clubs should join us for up-to-date information to share with their clubs. Currently, there are 161 *Keep Moving* walking clubs in Massachusetts. "It's good for the heart and the soles".

April 29, 2011 (9:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m.) Franklin County Home Care Corp., 330 Montague City Road, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Wear comfortable clothing for exercising!

Please contact Ed Pomfred, Director, *Keep Moving* Program to Register by Email: Edward.Pomfred@state.ma.us, Phone: (617) 624-5972, Fax: (617) 624-5075 or Mail: MA Department of Public Health, 250 Washington Street, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02108

PLEASE PRINT YOUR:

Name: _____

Agency (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Street

City

State

Zip

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Training Site: Harwich _____ Turners Falls _____

Return Reservation by March 25th.

There is no charge for this training, it is sponsored by BlueCross BlueShield of Massachusetts, The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, The Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging and Senior Center Directors and The Executive Office of Elder Affairs



Keep Moving Walking Club Leader Trainings



Learn:

- Nuts & Bolts of Walking Clubs
- Benefits of Walking
- Nutrition
- Physiology of Aging
- Exercise Warm Up/Cool Down
- Introduction to Walkability

When and Where:

April 29, 2011

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Franklin County Home Care Corp.

330 Montague City Road

Turners Falls, MA 01376

Wear comfortable clothing for exercising!

Please register by March 25, 2011. To register contact:

Ed Pomfred, Keep Moving Program Director

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Phone: (617) 624-5972 Fax: (617) 624-5075 TTY: (617) 624-5992

Email: Edward.Pomfred@state.ma.us

There is no charge for the training.

Sponsored by: BlueCross BlueShield of Massachusetts, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, The Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging and Senior Center Directors, and The Executive Office of Elder Affairs



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: 617-624-5992 or e-mail: edward.pomfred@state.ma.us by March 18, 2011.

Up Coming Events : continued

Accessible Health Care: It Takes More Than Ramps

An all-day conference for practice managers, hospital administrators, ADA coordinators, facility managers, health care practitioners, case managers, and advocates

Tuesday, May 3, 2011

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Crowne Plaza Hotel Pittsfield-Berkshires, Route 7 & West Street on Park Square,
Pittsfield, MA**

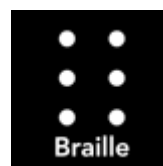
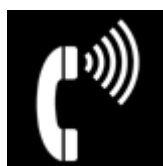
Featuring Keynote Speakers:

Dr. Lisa Iezzoni, Partners Healthcare, Institute for Health Policy
Jonathan O'Dell, Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Informative panels and workshops:

- Learn how to make your practice compliant with federal and state accessibility laws and Department of Public Health policies.
- Gain tools and ideas for designing and implementing policies and procedures, conducting site surveys, and creating transition plans.

Registration brochure will be distributed six weeks before the conference



If you are deaf or hard of hearing, or are a person with a disability who requires **accommodation**, please contact Stefanie Krantz by:

Phone: (413) 584-6337 or (800) 222-5619, Email: skrantz@dlc-ma.org, or

Fax: (413) 584-2976, by **Tuesday, April 19, 2011**.

This event is co-sponsored by:

Massachusetts Department of Public Health - Healthy Aging and Disability Unit, Ad-Lib, Inc. and Disability Law Center of Massachusetts

MCOA is working on this regional effort for a good cause. I encourage you all to support efforts in your districts. *DPS*

March 14, 2011



Open Letter to COAs in the District of Northwestern DA's Office and Members of the Hampshire/Franklin TRIAD Program

I write to each of you today to strongly encourage your participation in an important initiative sponsored by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Hampshire/Franklin TRIAD program, the Northwestern District Attorney's Office, the Hampshire and Franklin County Sheriff's Department, local police departments, and a broad range of community partners including MCOA.

Prescription Drug Take Back Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 30, 2011 and seeks to remove unused and expired prescription and non prescription drugs from circulation within our communities. This program has established collection sites throughout the NW DA District where consumers can drop off these items, no questions asked. DEA and local law enforcement will then properly dispose of these items.

The goal is to ensure these medications are properly disposed of and do not end up in our landfills and septic systems where they contaminate our ground water. Additionally there has been a disturbing trend of misuse of these drugs by family and friends.

Local COAs can post the attached flyer at their Senior Center and around their community; use the enclosed paragraph in their newsletters; and mention this program frequently during gatherings at their senior centers. Your local TRIAD programs and SALT Councils are actively participating in this program and can be a resource to answer your questions. Questions can also be directed to Chris Geffin at the NW DA at 413.586.9225.

I hope you are able to find the time in your busy schedule to promote this initiative. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

David P. Stevens
Executive Director
david@mcoaonline.com

Up Coming Events: continued

Directions to the Groton Senior Center



Groton Senior Center
102 Newtown Road
Groton, Connecticut 06340
(860) 441-6785

Come see their beautiful renovations and new addition!

From I-95 North: Take exit 88 and turn right at the light at the end of the ramp. At the next light turn right into the Senior Center parking Lot.

From I-95 South: Take exit 88 and turn left at the end of the ramp. At the second light turn right into the Senior Center parking lot.



CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SENIOR CENTER PERSONNEL

is an association of practitioners working in Senior Centers. Our purpose is to maintain a support system which enhances our members professionally and educationally. To learn more about our organization and membership contact visit our website www.CASCP.org.

The Connecticut Association of Senior Center Personnel

ANNUAL CONFERENCE



*Senior Centers:
The Center Of It All!*

Friday, May 13, 2011

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Groton Senior Center

Groton, CT

SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY

8:30 Registration & Networking

9:00 CASCP Business Meeting

9:20 Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:45 Morning Workshops:

1. **More than Surfing the Net** Your participants are online...are you? - An interactive presentation
Presenters: Norma Carey, Glastonbury Senior Center & Various Instructors from Groton Senior Center
2. **"More than Bricks & Mortar: Making the Most of Your Building"** Ideas on new construction, additions and renovations.
Presenters: Shawn Cohen, Plainville Senior Center & Pat Schneider, Glastonbury Senior Center
3. **"Evidence Based Wellness Programs"** What are they and how to incorporate them into your programming.
Presenters: Sally Ritchie, Waterford Senior Center & Laura Crews, Senior Resources
4. **"Building Excellence"** The standards toward which every center should aspire.
Presenter: Dianne Stone, Newington Senior & Disabled Center

11:30 Break & Tours

12:00 Lunch

12:45 **The Future of Aging Services**

Panel Discussion of Experts in the Field of Aging in Connecticut.
Presenters: Julie Evans Starr, CT Commission on Aging, Brenda Kelly, CT AARP, Molly Rees Gavin, CCCL, Pam Giannini, DSS - State Unit on Aging, & Nancy Shaffer, CT Ombudsman's Office

2:15 **Afternoon Workshops:**

5. **"Techno Centers: Are You There Yet?"** Making the most of what technology can do for your center.
Presenter: Groton Information & Technology Department
6. **"Where the Money Is"** Fund Development.
Presenters: Susan Lather, Enfield Senior Center & Ned Skinnon, West Hartford Senior Center
7. **"Brain Fitness: Programs to Pump Up Your Neurons"**
Presenter: Dianne Stone, Newington Senior & Disabled Center
8. **"A Smorgasbord of Fitness: New Options for Centers"** Demos of new program options
Presenters: Various Instructors & Program Leaders



Registration Information

(due by 5/6/11)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

FAX#: _____

E-mail: _____

Morning Workshop Choice (1-4)

1st _____ 2nd _____

Afternoon Workshop Choice (5-8)

1st _____ 2nd _____

2010/11 CASCP Member \$25

Non-Member \$40

Includes Continental Breakfast & Lunch

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

**Make checks payable to
"C.A.S.C.P."**

Mail Registrations to:

C.A.S.C.P. c/o Pat Schneider

Riverfront Community Center

300 Welles Street

Glastonbury, CT 06033

E-mail: pat.schneider@glastonbury-ct.gov

Phone: (860) 652-7646

Fax: (860) 652-7649

Up Coming Events: continued

WMACA SPRING CONFERENCE

SCHEDULE

8:30am-9:00am: Registration

9:00am-9:30am: Business Meeting

9:30am-10:45am: Workshop #1

A. "The Driving Decision": Michele Billicks from RMV--Advice for caregivers and professionals who are trying to take the keys away from an unsafe driver.

B. "Universal Depression Screening for Older Adults and Their Caregivers": Steve Corso, BayPath Elder Services and Sarah Thomas, Advocates, Inc.- This workshop will provide a summary of their funded universal depression screening for older adults and their caregivers. Con't...

11:00am-12:15pm: Workshop #2

A. "Paper Retention": Terry French from MA State Archives- What do you have to keep, for how long and how to dispose of old material.

B. "Universal Depression Screening..." part 2...con't...role play, tool kits and discussion.

12:15pm-1:00pm: Buffet Lunch- soup, salad and assorted deli wraps.

1:15pm-2:30pm: Workshop #3

A. "Public Transit Options for Seniors": Nicole Rohan of PVRTA--Learn about transportation programs and options available through local regional transit authorities.

B. "Municipal Employees and Municipal Facilities in Elections: A Campaign Finance Guide": Jason Tate of the State Office of Campaign and Political Finance- Know the rules and your rights.

2:45pm-4:00pm: Workshop #4

A. "2010 US Census": Ana-Maria Garcia and Molly Goren-Watts of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission-Learn about what all the Census info means, how will it impact us and what will the future hold.

B. "Food Bank Options": Dale West of the Food Bank of Western MA- What is the Food Bank all about and how can their programs help our communities?

4:00pm: Adjourn

WMACA Spring Conference

\$20.00 per person

Name: _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Workshop choice:

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____

Please make checks payable to

WMACA and return to:

MCOA/WMACA

116 Pleasant St., rm. 306

Easthampton, MA 01027

Please respond by 5/6/11.

Northampton
Senior Center located at:

67 Court Street
Northampton, MA
413-587-1228

Hello! We hope that you will join us for this full day conference geared toward the needs of Western Massachusetts. We are attempting to meet the needs of Directors and hope to once again unite and strengthen

WMACA!

WMACA

It is the mission of the Western Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging and Senior Centers, Inc. (WMACA) to support, advance and improve new and existing activities and programs of Councils on Aging and Senior Centers which enhance the quality of elder's lives in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire Counties.

Western
Massachusetts
Association
of Councils
on Aging



Spring
Conference

Thursday
May 12, 2011
Northampton
Senior Center
Northampton,

Up Coming Events: continued



2011 SPRING DIRECTOR'S CONFERENCE

THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF HOME CARE

Thursday, May 19, 2011, 9:00AM-3:00PM

at The Plymouth Church, Framingham, MA

FEATURING THE FOLLOWING PRESENTATIONS:

A CLOSER LOOK AT LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE

Staff from **LifePlans**, a long-term care insurance services, risk management, and research company, will provide an overview of both federal and state initiatives in this area. This presentation will also include a discussion of how home care agencies can successfully partner with long term care insurance providers to provide care to insured clients and an provide overview of the state's new Long-Term Care Financing Advisory Committee report.

PROVIDER DIRECT 101

Joan O'Rourke, Chief Information Officer at the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, and her staff will provide members with a first-hand look at Provider Direct, the new data management system which will enable home care agencies, that contract with the ASAPs, to view real time agency data including consumer records and service authorizations through a secure web portal. This presentation will include a project update and product demonstration followed by a question and answer session. This may be the only chance home care agencies will have to see the new system live and ask questions before the statewide roll-out.

THE IMPACT OF ACOS, PATIENT-CENTERED MEDICAL HOMES, AND CARE TRANSITIONS ON THE HOME CARE NETWORK

EOEA Secretary **Ann Hartstein** will be joined by a panel of ASAP representatives to discuss Accountable Care Organizations, Patient-Centered Medical Homes, and Care Transitions. Secretary Harstein will discuss what role EOEAs envision the ASAPs, certified home care agencies, and non-certified agencies playing in these new initiatives. Confirmed ASAP panelists to date include **Cheryl Krisko** from North Shore Elder Services and **Kathy Siemionko** from Springwell who will describe new initiatives at their organizations within these models.

Home care aide supervisors and agency managers will not want to miss this forum. We also invite ASAP staff and other elder advocates to join us for this networking opportunity!

AGENDA

2011 COUNCIL SPRING DIRECTOR'S CONFERENCE THURSDAY, MAY 19th

9:00AM – 9:25AM	REGISTRATION, EXHIBITOR BOOTHS, AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
9:25AM – 9:30AM	WELCOME
9:30AM – 11:00AM	<u>A CLOSER LOOK AT LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE</u>
11:00AM – 11:15AM	BREAK
11:15AM – 12:45PM	<u>PROVIDER DIRECT 101</u>
12:45PM – 1:30PM	LUNCH
1:30PM – 3:00PM	<u>THE IMPACT OF ACOS, PATIENT-CENTERED MEDICAL HOMES, AND CARE TRANSITIONS ON THE HOME CARE NETWORK</u>

DIRECTIONS TO 2011 COUNCIL SPRING DIRECTOR'S CONFERENCE THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2011

The Plymouth Church, 87 Edgell Road, Framingham, MA 01701
(508) 875-1364

From the West: Take the Mass Pike west to exit 12. Take Route 9 east to the Edgell Rd / Framingham State College exit. At the traffic light, go left onto Edgell Rd. Plymouth Church is approximately 1/4 mile on the right hand side.

From the East: Take the Mass Pike east to exit 13. Take Route 30 west to Route 9. After the first traffic light, take the exit ramp to Framingham Center. Go right on Edgell Rd. Plymouth Church is approximately 1/4 mile on the right hand side.

From the North: Take 95/128 South to exit 25, the Mass Pike. Take the Mass Pike west to exit 12. Take Route 9 east to the Edgell Rd / Framingham State College exit. At the traffic light, go left onto Edgell Rd. Plymouth Church is approximately 1/4 mile on the right hand side.

From the South: Take 95/128 North to exit 23/24/25, the Mass Pike. Take the Mass Pike west to exit 12. Take Route 9 east to the Edgell Rd / Framingham State College exit. At the traffic light, go left onto Edgell Rd. Plymouth Church is approximately 1/4 mile on the right hand side.

REGISTRATION FOR 2011 COUNCIL SPRING DIRECTOR'S CONFERENCE

(Please duplicate this form for each person attending)

Thursday, May 19, 2011, 9:00AM – 3:00PM

The Plymouth Church, 87 Edgell Road, Framingham, MA 01701

Name _____ Title _____

Agency _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Council Member Registration - \$75.00

Non-member Registration - \$125.00

TO PAY BY CHECK: Make check payable to MCHCAS and mail to MA Council for Home Care Aide Services, 174 Portland Street, Boston, MA 02114 before May 16, 2011.

TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD: Complete form and forward to the Council office by mail, email to bbudak@mahomecareaidess.com or fax to (617) 227-1190

Number of Registrations: _____ Amount Total: _____

Please check one:

_____ American Express _____ MasterCard _____ VISA

Exp. Date ____/____ (Month/Year)

CV Code (MC/Visa: 3 digit on reverse or AMEX: 4-digit code on front) _____

Card Number _____

Cardholder's Name _____

Billing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____

For more information, contact Barbara Budak at (617) 224-4141 or bbudak@mahomecareaidess.com.

Up Coming Events: continued

National Veterans Golden Age Games

More than 700 "golden age" Veterans from the East Coast to the West and from the Pacific islands will travel to Hawaii to participate in the nation's largest sporting event for senior military Veterans. The 25th National Veterans Golden Age Games is a national sports and recreational competition, sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Canteen Service, and Help Hospitalized Veterans. Events at the games are open to all U.S. military Veterans age 55 or older, who are currently receiving care at a VA medical facility. Hosted by the VA Pacific Islands Healthcare System, the games will have 14 competitive events, including swimming, cycling, horseshoes, bowling, croquet, and air rifles.

Dates: May 26-31, 2011 Location: Honolulu, Hawaii <http://www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov>

** CENSUS BUREAU MEDIA ADVISORY **

Census Bureau to Hold Webinar Prior to Release of 2010 Census Demographic Profiles for States

What: The U.S. Census Bureau will hold a media webinar prior to the state-by-state releases of the 2010 Census Demographic Profiles in May. Reporters will learn about the topics to be released in the profiles, how the release process will work and how to access the data.

The webinar will consist of a simultaneous audio conference and online presentation. Reporters will be able to ask questions during the audio conference once the presentation is complete.

When: **Wednesday, April 27, 2011, 1 p.m. (EDT)**

Who: Louisa Miller, assistant division chief, Census Programs, Population Division

Details: Audio conference — access information

Toll free number: 888-942-9649 Participant passcode: CENSUS

Questions and answers are limited to media

Online presentation — access information Please login early, as some setup is required.

URL: <https://www.my meetings.com/nc/join/>

Conference number: PW6861620 Audience passcode: CENSUS

Save the Date

Save the Date

MCOA 2011 Fall Conference

"Preparing for Tomorrow"

October 5-7, 2011

At the Sturbridge Host & Conference Center, Sturbridge, MA

Details online at www.mcoaonline.com

- **Call for Presentation- Deadline May 20th**
- **Conference at a Glance (timeline)**
- **Sturbridge Host Reservation Form Deadline for Overnight Room Sept. 13**
- **Sponsor and exhibitor Information**

Up Coming Events: continued – Worth Repeating

“Wisdom Works” Workshops

"Wisdom Works" — Employment Program for Older Job Seekers

Topics: "Looking back...What's Next" (skills assessment); "Getting Started" (resume/cover letter); "Job Search Strategies"; "Interviewing" and "Research & Technology" (learning how to navigate the Internet)

Dates: **Tuesday 4/26, Thursday 5/5, Tuesday 5/10, Monday 5/16**

Time: 2-4PM. all 4 sessions must be attended but call regardless.

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

MA Aging & Mental Health Coalition Conf.

Wednesday 27 April 2011 — The Mass Aging & Mental Health Coalition Conference will take place.

Hogan Center, College of the Holy Cross, One College Street, Worcester MA 01610

This will be another excellent conference with 6 CEU's for SW and RN/LPN at a very reasonable price.

See Registration Form for details: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/conferences/index.php>

4-Session Entrepreneur Training Program

The Salisbury COA in conjunction with SCORE is offering this free 4 week workshop starting May 4th.

Wednesdays 1-3 pm — May 4 – May 11 – May 18 – May 25

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

MA Gerontology Assoc 2011 Meeting

The Massachusetts Gerontology Association (MGA) invites you to attend our 2011 Annual Meeting, “Let There Be Law: Empowering Aging Families”. This event will be held on **May 5, 2011** at Heller School at Brandeis University. Attached is an electronic flyer with details and registration materials. Also attached is information for organizations interesting in sponsoring this event.

ElderCare 2011 (Worcester Area event)

Tuesday, May 10, 2011 • 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. ElderCare 2011: Connecting the Community to You

The Manor, 42 West Boylston Street (Rte 12), West Boylston, MA

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

End-of-Life Care – 3rd Workshop

End-of-Life Care: Change, Challenges and Choices — A three-part series supporting the professional aging services network. Join us for one or all three end-of-life workshops, which will analyze medical, ethical and spiritual issues; review patient and family dynamics; and explore who is truly in charge when families request harmful treatments. **8:30 to 10 AM Thursdays || May 12**

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

Mass Poetry Festival, Salem MA

Saturday 14 May, 10:30am-midnight — Historic Salem, Massachusetts

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

Suicide Prevention Across the Lifespan

MDPH 10th Annual Massachusetts Suicide Prevention Conference

Tuesday & Wednesday, May 24-25, 2011

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

Up Coming Events: continued – Worth Repeating

Massachusetts SMP Program Conference

The Massachusetts SMP Program is happy to announce its Second Annual Statewide Conference!

This conference aims to broaden the reach and visibility of the SMP Program and raise awareness of the pivotal role we each have in preventing healthcare errors, fraud and abuse. The conference will bring together representatives from the aging service delivery network, community based service organizations, governmental, non-governmental, academic institutions, law enforcement, and others to inform and share best practices in promoting consumer engagement in their health care.

Health care consumers, in particular Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, need to be reached and educated on how to protect, detect and report Medicare Fraud. We hope you can join us!

Tuesday 24 May 2011 — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. — Springfield Marriot, Springfield, MA

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

Aging With Dignity Conference in June

Preventing and Responding to Substance Use Problems Among Older People

Wednesday 8 June 2011 — College of the Holy Cross, Worcester MA

Registration brochure will be sent out six weeks before the conference. If you would like additional information, or you are deaf or hard of hearing, or are a person with a disability who requires accommodation, please contact AdCare Educational Institute, Inc. at (508) 752-7313, TTY: (508) 754-0039, Fax: (508) 752-8111, or e-mail: jadoros@aol.com

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

Board Training at Marion COA

Come spend the morning in the beautiful seaside village of Marion, MA. The Marion Council on Aging will be hosting board training on **June 23rd** by the incomparable Emmett Schmarsow from Elder Affairs. Registration begins at 8:45 and the session will last approximately 2.5 hours. Light refreshments will be served. The workshop will be held at the Marion Music Hall, 164 Front St., Marion MA 02738.

The program covers a variety of topics including the roles and responsibilities of board members, staff and volunteers, as well as an overview of the aging network along with COA services and Activities. Board members, COA directors and Friends of the COA are welcome. If you have not attended training recently please try and attend this informational session.

RSVP to: sschwager@marionma.gov Or 508 748-3570

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

National Council on Problem Gambling

Don't miss the National Council on Problem Gambling's 25th Anniversary Conference in Boston, Massachusetts, July 1 to 2, 2011! (Pre-Conference Workshops offered June 29-30)

Visit this link for more information! <http://www.ncpgambling.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3824>

Alzheimer's Association Conference

International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease 2011

Less than two weeks to submit your ICAD abstract. — February 1, 2011

July 16-21, 2011 in Paris, France

Sign up for AAICAD by May 13 to take advantage of discounted registration rates. Full conference admission for a regular attendee is €673, and for members of ISTAART, €574. After May 13, rates will increase.

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

Deliver Immediately to Volunteer Staff

Reservation Due May 16, 2011

MCOA VOLUNTEER WORKING GROUP

Thursday, May 19, 2011

Location: Bellingham Senior Center

Laura DeMattia, Director, 40 Blackstone Street Bellingham, MA 02019-1602 Phone: 508-966-0398

Agenda

- 9:00 — 9:30 a.m. Registration & Continental Breakfast
- 9:30 — 9:45 Introductions & Updates (we will begin at 9:30 sharp!)
- 9:45 — 10:45 Discussion: Stacey Lacey, Volunteer Coordinator, Shrewsbury Senior Center
Recruit, Retrain and Retrain for a New Generation
- *Recruit:*
 - *Traditional and Cutting Edge* –
Discuss recruiting techniques with a focus on leveraging Social Media to your advantage
 - *Retrain:*
 - *Second Act* - Getting your volunteers ready for their "second act"
 - *Retain:*
 - *Keep Them Coming Back for More* - Motivating your volunteers by creating value and worth
- 10:45 — 11:00 BREAK – Mingle and Network
- 11:00 — 11:45 Continuation of previous discussion
- 11:45 — 12:30 p.m. Round Table -- Problem Solving
- 12:30 — 1:00 Lunch and mentoring

Please bring **information you have about the above topics, volunteer appreciation events or information about a topic for discussion for our next meeting in November, 2011.**

Directions

From the North: Take 495 South to exit 18. At end of ramp, go left onto Route 126 So./North Main St. Take left at traffic light (Sunoco & Dunkin Donuts on left) to stay on 126 So. and head towards downtown Bellingham. Pass Town Hall & Police Dept and bear left at fork in the road (White Church & Walgreens) onto Rt 140. Take right onto Blackstone Street at traffic light. The Senior Center is on left at # 40 between Fire Station and High School.

From the South: Take 495 North to exit 17 Franklin. At the end of the ramp turn left onto West Central St/Mechanic St. (Rt 140). Continue into Bellingham, through traffic light passing gas station/car wash and strip mall on left up to traffic light at corner of Rt 140/Blackstone St. Take left onto Blackstone St. The Senior Center is on left at # 40 between Fire Station and High School.

Any questions/input regarding agenda contact Stacey Lavelly at volunteerjobs@gmail.com

Registration deadline is Monday, May 16, 2011

**Registration: \$20.00 including morning coffee & luncheon
\$ 10.00 for morning only**

Registrant's Name

COA/Agency

Total Due _____

Payment or Purchase Order should accompany registration form. Make checks payable to MCOA.

Send registration to: MCOA, 116 Pleasant Street, Ste 306, Easthampton, MA 01027-2781

Or: Tel: (413)527-6425, Fax: (413) 527-7138 or Email: janiece@mcoaonline.com