

MCOA News

MCOA 116 Pleasant Street, Room 306, Easthampton, MA 01027 tel: 413.527.6425 email: Janiece@mcoonline.com

Notes from the Executive Director: January 2008

Please Circulate to Your Staff

Upcoming Events: MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Additional information and registration forms enclosed for the following:

Feb.15th **MCOA Membership Meeting:** Defining the Mental Health Needs of COA
Certified Staff are asked to bring their portfolios to share

March 20th **Outreach Summit:** ASAP 101- Understanding their Service Network

Important Handouts Included in this Mailing

- **Highlights of Governor Patrick FY09 Budget Proposal**
- **Talking Points for MCOA's FY09 Campaign to Increase Line Item #9110-9002 to \$9,135,000**

MCOA Board Meets with Secretary Bigby and Other EOHHS Officials



On January 18th MCOA Board members met with members of the Patrick Administration. This was a tremendous opportunity to discuss mutual interests including preparing for boomers, the need for mental health services, transforming senior centers into wellness centers and the need to upgrade technology at our senior centers. In addition reaching out to minority communities and providing services to disabled elders were placed on our ongoing agenda. In attendance representing the Administration was Secretary JudyAnn Bigby/EOHHS Assistant Secretary Jean McGuire/EOHHS, Secretary Mike Festa/EOEA, Undersecretary Sandy Albright/EOEA, Commissioner Barbara Leadholm/DMH, Assistant Commissioner Elaine Hill/ DMH, and Commissioner John Auerbach/DPH. "We are truly fortunate that these leaders took the time to meet with us and discuss our agenda for the future. Common ground was found and we look forward to closely collaborating with this administration to serve the elders of our Commonwealth:" John Jope, President of MCOA Board. "Governor Patrick has assembled an outstanding team to focus on the needs of elders:" David P. Stevens, MCOA Executive Director

Please Note:

1. **By now municipal COAs should have received five copies of Focal Points**, MCOA's News Magazine in a manila envelop and **we ask that you circulate these** within your community to your Mayor/town manager, COA Board, Selectboard, Finance Committee and your staff. Additional copies are available in limited quantities. By January 15th it will also be available online at www@mcoaonline.com
2. Just a final reminder that David P Stevens old email address dpsjkr@rcn.com will no longer receive mail. Please change his address to david@mcoaonline.com
3. **MCOA Circulation: Our first FY09 Legislative Alert was sent January 23rd at 2:15pm. If you did not receive this alert please forward your email address to Janiece Leach at Janiece@mcoaonline.com**
4. **New COA Directors:** Welcome and please let us know your contact information. We have a New Director's Manual and can inform you about upcoming regional trainings. Regional Reps please forward names of new directors in your area. Send contact info to Janiece Leach at Janiece@mcoaonline.com

MCOA Legislative Update: Governor Patrick's FY09 Proposal-House 2

Budget Highlights by Matt Viser © Copyright 2008 Globe Newspaper Company.

Governor Deval Patrick has proposed a number of ways to close a \$1.3 billion projected gap in the fiscal 2009 budget.

Top savings and revenue generators:

- **\$124 million** generated in casino licensing revenue.
- **\$297 million** generated through corporate tax changes.
- **\$370 million** used from rainy day funds.
- **\$166 million** generated by increasing enforcement on tobacco taxes and escalating penalties against tax delinquents.
- **\$151 million** saved through Medicaid changes.
- **\$51 million** saved through employee healthcare changes.
- **\$40 million** saved through cuts to legislative earmarks.
- Here are several areas the governor has identified where he wants to increase spending:

Top areas for new spending:

- **\$100 million** increase in public safety, to hire 100 more police officers, combat gang violence, and improve the chief medical examiner's office.
- **\$368 million** increase in education spending.
- **\$10 million** to help end homelessness.
- **\$7.7 million** to allow the Department of Conservation and Recreation to increase staff and revitalize state parkland.
- Spending on the state's landmark health insurance initiative would rise by more than **\$400 million** next year, representing one of the largest increases in the \$28.2 billion state budget the governor proposed yesterday. (By Alice Dembner, Boston Globe)

MCOA Legislative Update: MCOA Review

Here is a quick review of the Governor's FY09 budget proposal that was just released.

The governor included a 4.5% increase in EOHHS budget and it looks like it all went into the big line item #4000-0600; which includes MassHealth and funding for the new health insurance program. The rest of EOE line items were -for all intended purposes -level funded or with a very, very small increase. The administration line item did increase \$800,000 but this had been requested since the Romney era and will replenish cuts in staffing that occurred earlier this decade. Rx Advantage took a small hit but should better reflect true projected costs.

Our message: *Stay the Course*. Remember it has been over a decade since the corner office proposed an increase in our line item- all of our increases have come out of the House and the Senate. The budget is very fluid at this stage; the three parties have not even agreed as to what revenues should or should not be counted (Gambling Licenses, Business Tax Increase, etc.) Until they do, we should continue to make our case for an increase in Line Item #9110-9002. Our goal is to finally achieve \$7/elder/year- an additional \$650,000 is needed to achieve this top priority. And if possible we need an additional \$600,000 for technology. The total needed for the line item #9110-9002 would be \$9,135,000. Stress increase costs to heat your senior centers, fuel your vans and any impact the rise in the minimum wage had. Depict how a \$.50/elder increase would impact service delivery in your town and **stress that this is 'local aide'**.

Meet with your legislators either one on one or during your legislative breakfast and report back to Barbara Farnsworth what you hear: farnsworthb@hingham-ma.com or 781.741.1458.

It is our job to advocate... so continue to make the case.

Over the last 5 years we have received increases *after* this point in the process-do not drop the ball now!

Thanks for your attention to this matter! David P. Stevens MCOA

House 2: Gov. Patrick Proposed Budget for Executive Office of Elder Affairs in FY09

<i>ACCOUNT</i>	Description	FY2008 GAA	FY2009 House 2
4000-0600	MassHealth Senior Care	2,053,753,985	2,158,355,058
4000-0640	MassHealth Nursing Home Supplemental Rates	288,500,000	288,500,000
9110-0100	Department of Elder Affairs Administration For the operation of the department of elder affairs	2,916,031	3,809,356
9110-1455	Prescription Advantage	60,504,455	57,599,774
9110-1500	Elder Enhanced Home Care Services Program For the operation of the enhanced home care services program	47,410,832	48,024,305
9110-1604	Supportive Senior Housing Program	4,188,633	4,202,915
9110-1630	Elder Home Care Purchased Services	105,224,938	106,715,568
9110-1633	Elder Home Care Case Management and Administration	39,869,177	40,368,041
110-1636	Elder Protective Services	15,009,445	15,146,087
9110-1640	Geriatric Mental Health	225,000	225,000
9110-1650	Family Caregivers Program	250,000	253,406
9110-1660	Congregate Housing Program	2,622,873	2,639,031
9110-1700	Residential Placement for	350,000	350,000
9110-1900	Elder Nutrition Program	6,325,303	6,364,740
9110-9002	Grants to Councils on Aging For grants to the councils on aging and for grants to or contracts with non-public entities which are consortia or associations of councils on aging Earmark: LGBT Aging Project \$60,000	7,885,000	7,887,068

MCOA Legislative Update: Review of the Process

Over the last several years the Commonwealth has made tremendous strides to open up the budget process. Go to www.mass.gov and click on FY09 budget for extensive details and history of specific line items

Overview of the Commonwealth's Budget Process

Source:http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=mg2terminal&L=4&L0=Home&L1=State+Government&L2=About+State+Government&L3=Budgetary+Processes&sid=massgov2&b=terminalcontent&f=budget_process&csid=massgov2

Massachusetts government is funded on a fiscal year basis. The 2009 fiscal year runs from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

Fiscal year 2009 budget documents

Budget-writing steps

Governor's Budget January 23, 2008	The budget begins as a bill that the Governor submits in January (or February if at the start of a new term) to the House of Representatives.
House Ways & Means Budget	The House Ways and Means Committee reviews this budget and then develops its own recommendation.
House Budget	Once debated, amended and voted on by the full House, it becomes the House budget bill.
Senate Ways & Means Budget	At this point, the House passes its bill to the Senate. The Senate Ways & Means Committee reviews that bill and develops its own recommendation.
Senate Budget	Once debated, amended and voted on, it becomes the Senate's budget bill.
Conference Committee Budget	House and Senate leadership then assign members to a joint "conference committee" to negotiate the differences between the House and Senate bills. Once that work is completed, the conference committee returns its bill to the House for a vote. If the House makes any changes to the bill, it must return the bill to the conference committee to be renegotiated. Once approved by the House, the budget passes to the Senate, which then votes its approval.
Veto	From there, the Senate passes the bill to the Governor who has ten days to review and approve it, or make vetoes or reductions. The Governor may approve or veto the entire budget, or may veto or reduce certain line items or sections, but may not add anything.
Overrides	The House and Senate may vote to override the Governor's vetoes. Overrides require a two-thirds majority in each chamber.
Final Budget	The final budget is also known as the General Appropriations Act or "Chapter [#] of the Acts of [Year]."

MCOA Legislative Alert: FY09 Talking Points

-TEMPLATE-Talking Points You can customize for your Legislative Approach.

Please make ‘first contact’ by the end of January.

Specifically asked that the COA line item be a “top priority”

Thanks to Barbara Farnsworth and Sandy Vickery

A \$1,250,000 Increase is Requested for Line Item 9110-9002 Local Aid to Councils on Aging

Councils on Aging impact the lives of seniors in community based settings as well as in residential care; we connect with seniors in inner cities and rural towns; we provide services regardless of income; reach out to a diverse group of seniors from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds; and serve frail homebound elders as well as healthy active seniors. Councils on Aging clearly demonstrate how state dollars are used at the local level. We are the local focal point and function as a part of local government serving well over half of the state’s 1.1 million elders as indicated by recent statistics from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

As a legislator, we ask your support for our request of \$9,135,000 for line item #9110-9002 for fiscal year 2009 or an increase over the current allocation of \$1,250,000. Such an increase would raise the current formula grant of \$6.50/elder to \$7.00/elder and provide funding to bring senior center technology into the 21st century.

- **Formula Grant Line Item 9110-9002-** Each community determines their own specific use of these funds within the guidelines established by Elder Affairs and all COAs provide within their service matrix some type of Outreach program to assist seniors with eligibility and application assistance to various state and federal programs. Most recently, 349 Councils on Aging assisted seniors in signing up for Medicare Part D. Through this work, Councils on Aging saved the Commonwealth over \$30 million in FY’07 alone. We are also experiencing the first wave of “baby boomers” who became eligible for services in January 2006. Many have already begun to avail themselves of programs and services such as caregiver support programs, retirement planning seminars, computer training and wellness programs. Within the next four years, this first wave of “boomers” will be contemplating retirement with many in need of services. The “boomers” now join two other paradigmatic populations – the WWII generation and the Silent generation, each with very different needs and distinct responses to service delivery.

-INSERT- Describe what the current rate of \$6.50/elder/YEAR buys in your community and what the \$.50/elder increase would mean. Also, discuss how we are the 3rd leg of the public safety stool. Working in conjunction with police and fire, you have been able to provide and/or link elders in your community to necessary services thereby avoiding “unnecessary and unwarranted 911 calls”.

This \$.50/elder increase would require \$650,000 of the requested increase.

- **Technology** – We are in the 21st century, yet many senior centers do not have the technological capability required to efficiently operate in today’s society. Through an improved use of technology, senior centers could:
 1. **Efficiently Screen Clients** through existing software programs that can be utilized by Outreach Workers to easily discern an elder’s eligibility for the various benefit programs and services. These software programs screen for income limits and other restrictions and in some cases, allow for the completion of an application for benefits. A statewide program that could be implemented in all Councils on Aging would cost approximately \$125,000/annually.
 2. **Track Services and Programs** through existing software programs that would calculate usage and number of individuals served. Such data would assist with projecting needs, measure outcomes and provide for better planning for the future. A better defined picture of how dollars are spent would be helpful to state and municipal officials when making funding decisions.

MCOA Legislative Alert: FY09 Talking Points continued

MCOA Talking Points continued

At this point, COA's can talk about software programs, how they would use these programs for planning and measuring outcomes, or whatever. I would downplay use for the annual report as I don't believe that is our strongest argument for getting the appropriation.

3. **Purchase Hardware** – Computers are not located in every senior center and the types of computers that are located in senior centers vary from the most updated to antiquation. Needless to say, dozens of senior centers do not even have email. Funding is needed that would allow senior centers not only to be connected to the network but to be able to run the software programs as discussed in sections a and b.

Of the requested increase, \$600,000 would be utilized for technology.

Action Steps: To be completed by the end of February 2008.

1. Review the material above provided by the Legislative Committee.
2. Customize it to give it with your local input.
3. Decide how you want to connect with your legislator/delegation.
Some communities have pursued a one on one approach that includes COA Staff and/or Board members that meet directly with the legislator onsite, in the district office or in Boston. Other communities have conducted a regional legislative breakfast-presenting a regional picture. Please contact your regional representative (see October 2007 MCOANews for contact info) for the step by step checklist to plan such an event.
4. Specifically ask to increase Line Item 9110-9002 by \$1,250,000= \$650,000 to increase the formula grant from \$6.50 to \$7/elder/YEAR and another \$600,000 for technology.
5. Specifically ask if your legislator will make this a “top priority” during discussions with the chairs of the House and Senate Ways and Means Committees
6. Report your progress directly to Barbara Farnsworth, our legislative chair and the director of Hingham Elder Services. Barb can be reach at 781.741.1458 or farnsworthb@hingham-ma.com
7. Thank you for your ongoing efforts.....Last Year we had over 50 representatives who supported the full \$7/elder/year-we need at least 50 more to make this happen!

Please mark your calendars now to hold Tuesday, Feb. 26th. for a State House Lobby Day in Nurses Hall on Making Equal Choice Real in the FY 2009 budget.

**Save the Date! February 26th
MAKE EQUAL CHOICE REAL!**



--Mass Home Care photo

**State House Lobby Day
Sponsored by Mass Home Care
Tues, Feb. 26th Nurses Hall: 11 AM to Noon
Make your legislative visits from Noon on**

Massachusetts spends more than \$2 billion on Long Term Care services---most of it goes where you don't want it to go. Come tell lawmakers what your home care priorities are for the FY 2009 budget. We won the “equal choice” law---but now we need the money to go with it! More details to follow....

For more background: info@masshomecare.org

Resources You Can Use:

Ready, Set, Go Digital!

Preparing for the Digital Television Transition (DTV): On February 17, 2009, all television stations across the country will complete the transition from analog to digital television (DTV). It is important to know how this transition will affect you and what steps you can take to ensure that you are prepared to receive a digital broadcast signal when the transition occurs. The digital transition will affect more than 34 million households across the country! Only those television sets with built-in digital tuners or those that are connected to cable or satellite will not be affected, and will continue to receive programming after February 17, 2009. All other televisions receiving free local broadcasting will go static on this date. You may be wondering why our nation is making the switch from analog to digital. The switch was mandated by Congress in 2005 and there are many benefits to DTV. Not only is it a more flexible and efficient means of broadcasting but it provides dramatically clearer picture, more channels and better sound quality. There are three ways to ensure that your television will receive the digital signal. One option is to purchase a converter box to plug into your existing analog set. The converter box will allow for continued free television reception and will be available for purchase in electronic stores in the upcoming months. Each household is now eligible to receive two federally issued coupons, valued at \$40 each to be used towards the purchase of a converter box. For more information on the voucher program, please visit the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's website, www.ntia.doc.gov. You may also call the NTIA hotline, 1-888-DTV-2009 to apply over the phone to receive your coupons. Other options include subscribing to cable, satellite or a telephone company service provider, or purchasing a new television set with a built-in digital tuner. From coast to coast members of the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) DTV Speakers Bureau will be participating in speaking engagements in small towns, large cities and everywhere in between to ensure that no one gets left without TV signal. Our goal is to reach millions of television viewers by speaking at 8,000 engagements across the country, and with your help we can achieve this goal. If your organization would like to schedule a speaker, please contact Barbara Miller at bmiller@crobyvolmer.com or call 202-232-6641.

From Our Friends at MA RMV: STAY SAFE with WINTER DRIVING

Driving in winter is probably the most difficult and hazardous situation for both new and experienced drivers. You should practice driving in winter conditions, because motor vehicles handle much differently on ice and snow than they do on warm, dry pavements.

- Reduce your speed according to road conditions. Drive cautiously and accelerate gently.
- Never lock your brakes on icy roads. You will lose steering control. If you do skid, remember to turn into the direction of the skid.
- Increase the space between your vehicle and others. You need more distance to stop safely on slippery surfaces.
- Because the earth does not insulate them, bridges and highway overpasses tend to freeze before the rest of the road and can be very slippery.
- If it is snowing, start slowly. Test your brakes by tapping them gently to see how much traction your tires have.
- Make sure your windshield wipers and defroster are in good condition.
- Before driving, remove ice and snow from your vehicle. Clear all windows, windshield wipers, headlights, and brake lights. Clear ice and snow from your vehicle's roof so they do not blow off while you're driving and create hazards for drivers behind you.
- Keep your fuel tank at least half full to prevent the fuel line from freezing.
- Make sure you fill your windshield washer with a cleaning solution that will not freeze.
- Keep a blanket, flashlights, and a small shovel in your trunk.
- Purchase AAA protection for emergencies.

Adapted from: Winter Driving Tips Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles Boston, MA

Resources You Can Use: continued

From NCOA: Civic Engagement from an old friend to Senior Centers- Constance Todd

Hello All, before I ask for your help; I do wish you a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year--and prosperity too! As you know, I still direct Wisdom Works, a civic engagement initiative targeted towards senior center and senior center professionals. Many in the NISC leadership held hope that one day there would be money and/or other resources to facilitate civic engagement paid and non paid opportunities.

And that hope is still alive! But will our colleagues be ready to respond when and if opportunities arise? Many (not only senior center professionals) still don't understand the concept of civic engagement or how to create viable experiences through senior centers. Many don't have the time or the inkling to learn. But here is where you can help...please pass the information below to your colleagues and state associations. They need not be NISC/NCOA members to take advantage on these valuable opportunities. In fact...you may even want to expose colleagues outside of the senior center with whom you network and may want to build a future partnership. Pass the word!

Thanks for your help! Please know I'm well and looking forward to seeing you at the conference in March!

Civic Engagement: What Are Your Questions for the Experts? Civic engagement is one emerging strategy for utilizing the skills and assets of the 55+ population to meet important community needs. But what is civic engagement? Is it different than volunteering? How can senior center professionals position their centers to serve as partners and catalysts for civic engagement? NCOA's Civic Engagement division, through Wisdom Works, has assembled experts to address these and other questions you may have. Join Constance Todd for a Webinar on Jan. 31 at 2 p.m. Eastern for A New Direction for 2008! Preview a Civic Engagement Series

<http://www.magnetmail.net/ls.cfm?r=54107471&sid=3187827&m=405245&u=NCOA&s=>

<http://www.ncoa.org/content.cfm?sectionID=361&BriefingID=68&BriefingDetail=true>> During this briefing, you will preview four upcoming Webinars on civic engagement and help the experts craft their presentations around your questions. The briefing will combine a teleconference with an interactive Web presentation. Then, every Tuesday in February at 2 p.m. Eastern, the experts will offer 30-minute Webinars as part of the Wisdom Works Series for Senior Center Professionals. During this series, participants will hear:

- * What Is Civic Engagement and What Is the Landscape? by Thomas Endres, vice president, NCOA civic engagement
- * Moving Volunteer Programs from Ordinary to Extraordinary by Christine Beatty, immediate past chair, NISC
- * Self-Directed Teams and Senior Centers: Models for Civic Engagement by Constance Todd, director, Wisdom Works, and associate director, NCOA civic engagement
- * Fourth Session Topic & Speaker TBD These sessions are sponsored by IMPACT: A Fund for Change Through Volunteerism, administered by the National Assembly through funding spearheaded from The UPS Foundation. Wisdom Works is funded by MetLife Foundation

Constance Todd, National Council on Aging Associate Director, Civic Engagement Director, Wisdom Works funded by MetLife Foundation with support from Volunteer IMPACT Fund 1901 L Street, NW 4th Floor Washington, DC 20036 P: 202-479-6683 F: 202-479-0735

From Our Friends at MA DPH

The NIH brochure for older adults, 'Stay Safe in Cold Weather' is now available-- up to 10 free copies of the brochure can be ordered. Go to <http://www.nia.nih.gov/HealthInformation/Publications/staysafe/>

Linn Morrill, Healthy Aging Health and Disability MA Department of Public Health 250 Washington Street - 4th floor, Boston, MA 02108 tel: 617.624.5965 tty: 617.624.5992 fax: 617.624.5075

ELDER AFFAIRS CHIEF BACKS GUARDIANSHIP LAW REFORMS

By Gintautas Dumcius STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, JAN. 24, 2008.....Gov. Deval Patrick's top adviser on elder affairs on Thursday threw the administration's support behind a far-reaching revamp of the way guardians are appointed in probate court. Elder Affairs Secretary Michael Festa pushed for the overhaul, telling the Judiciary Committee a pair of bills (S 843 and H1652) include the necessary checks and balances for guardianship appointments that currently aren't in place, like judges being allowed to appoint legal counsel for the person at the center of the case. Reform advocates pointed to a recent series of Boston Globe articles showing how easily a hospital or nursing home can place an elder under a guardian's complete control. "Unbefriended elders can lose all their independence, their dignity, their homes, their lifetime possessions, and contact with the outside world, without ever having their day in court," said Wynn Gerhard, a managing attorney for Greater Boston Legal Services' elder law unit...

Resources You Can Use: continued

Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Science: MassMedLink

Hello! It was wonderful participating in this year's MCOA Conference again. I hope you all found the event as useful as I did. I am sending follow-up information from the MassMedLine program. We had both an outreach table and a presentation by Mary Sullivan, PharmD – Director of MassMedLine. I wanted to take the time to make sure that you all received information about MassMedLine and the services we can provide to you, your staff, and your clients. I am attaching information for your records. If you need any educational materials or would like an educational program, please feel free to use the order form attached. Please share this information with anyone you feel may benefit from our program – it is a free resource for ANY resident of Massachusetts.

- Medication Costs
- Eligibility for programs and enrollment help - Medicare Part D and Extra Help Benefits, Prescription Advantage, etc.
- Medication profile reviews with pharmacists
- Medication safety issues
- Prescription changes
- Discuss any concerns you have about your medications with a pharmacist from the privacy of your home

The Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Science, under contract with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs, operate the Pharmacy Outreach Program as a public service to the people of the Commonwealth. The purpose of MassMedLine's pharmacy outreach program is to assure medication compliance and adherence by providing a toll free service where patients are evaluated for programs that are available for access to prescription medications. This includes federal, states and private programs. MassMedLine's staff of **case managers** educate and assess patients for eligibility and assist with the enrollment process to these programs, including the Medicare Drug Benefit and the patient assistance programs through the pharmaceutical industry. MassMedLine's **pharmacists** also provide a comprehensive medication therapy management evaluation and review of the caller's medication profile, education on their disease state, and compliance monitoring with assistance and follow-up. MassMedLine's health educator conducts state wide outreach events to increase awareness of the services provided and participates in presentations on general health and disease related topics.

New Project - MassMedLink to Health

MassMedLine, the pharmacy outreach program of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences has developed a project MassMedLink to Health designed to target issues of medication adherence, compliance and affordability by providing support and education. With funding of \$84,500 from the Activation Fund of the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts, MassMedLine hopes to increase the patient's understanding of their medication and the importance of compliance by increasing the interactive component of the MassMedLine service through individualized /interactive and informative access to concise medication safety and disease state management information. The first component of this new project MassMedLink to Health is an interactive e-mail option on the MassMedLine website www.massmedline.com "Go Ahead- Just Ask". The goal of this new web tool is to provide an avenue for patients to ask medication related questions via a portal on the MassMedLine website and get a response from pharmacists after researching a response.

In addition to the access to answers surrounding medication questions, MassMedLink to Health will provide basic, health related information through a telephone recorded messaging system. The toll-free # to access this new service is 1-866-633-6799. This service will not be restricted to operating business hours and will provide multiple messages in both **English and Spanish**. Patients can access a brief overview on medication safety tips, disease management tips on **chronic conditions including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease**, and others as identified in physician survey. These new service would be highlighted in a specific brochure identifying the easy steps to access both of these individualized options. The recorded information will also be available for download from the MassMedLine website. Please utilize this valuable free service available to all residents of Massachusetts. We are a program for people of all ages.

If you have used our program before and feel it is a valuable resource, please, I encourage you to write a letter to MassMedLine letting them know that this service is valuable to you and your clients. Letters can be emailed to: massmedline@mcphs.edu

OR: Letters can be mailed to: President Charles Monahan, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences 19 Foster Street, Worcester, MA 01608

UpComing Events:

In Case You Missed this at Worcester: The Foxborough COA & Human Services is hosting the Consumers' **Utility Rights and Fuel Assistance for Elders** program on Thursday Feb 28th 10-2 (free, lunch will be provided) Need RSVP by 2/23. To register call the Senior Center @ 508-543-1252. Mr. Harak would like to broaden the audience and have DSS; DTA; Self Help; Food Pantries, Vet's Agents, etc., to attend, so I'd like to ask everyone to forward this invitation to the appropriate people in their communities. It's an outstanding program from what I've heard. Thank you ~ Vicki

Charlie Harak, Esq. > of the National Consumer Law Center

Mr. Harak has extensive knowledge and expertise in the area of advocacy for low-income elders and can provide valuable training to you and your staff as you assist consumers in managing their utility expenses.

This training will provide you with tools to bring back to your communities and organizations to train other professionals on how best to assist elders facing utility challenges, including paying for heat this winter\

Save The Date: First Annual Massachusetts Statewide Fall Prevention Symposium

Thursday, May 15th DCU Center Worcester 9:30-3:30 Registration begins at 8:30am

Sponsored by: the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Massachusetts Fall Prevention Coalition and the Massachusetts Long Term Care Foundation. **Keynote Speaker:** Lewis Lipsitz, M.D., Chief of Gerontology, BIDMC. Internationally renowned educator, researcher, clinician and expert on falls in older adults

This free symposium will bring together leaders from throughout Massachusetts, neighboring New England states, and national organizations working on fall prevention across settings. Education programs will include content on fall prevention for hospital, long term care, assisted living, community and home care staff. Government agencies participating in fall prevention and key state legislators will be in attendance. CEUs will be available.

MCOA Briefs:

Check Out our newly updated WEB page at www.mcoaonline.com

The latest addition is the Emergency Preparedness Resource Guide developed in conjunction with the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. This downloadable tool should be reviewed by all elder advocates and circulated within your town governments. Go to our web site and click on **Lending Library** to find this valuable document. Congrats to Mary Kay Browne team leader from EOEA, MCOA Board Member Joanne Moore from Duxbury, MCOA Advisory Council Member Pat Houde from Bourne and the rest of the Emergency Preparedness Task Force for this excellent addition to all of our procedure manuals. Review and circulate this tool today!

Reminder It is an Election Year: So you might want to refresh your knowledge of the current restrictions and rights- <http://www.mass.gov/ocpf/guides/pe1page.pdf> for the "do's"& "don't" for public employees.

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

Congratulations Continue for Sharon Lally

Tri-Town Observer Person of the Year: "Lally has been named Rochester's 2007 Person of the Year by the Tri-Town Observer. For Lally, 2007 was a year of awards. First she was named Massachusetts Council on Aging Director of the Year, and then, along with Rochester's COA Board of Directors, she celebrated as Rochester's COA became the ninth in Massachusetts, and 135th in the nation, to receive accreditation."

Please forward all material that you want published in MCOANews to
Janiece@mcoaonline.com

MCOA Briefs: Member Requests

Report Back: Results of a Member Request-Entrance Age

First of all, a big thank-you to Janiece and MCOA for getting our request out to all the senior centers for their entrance age for membership. Secondly, a thank-you to the 46 respondents who participated. The results are as follows:

Age 65 for membership ---- 1
Age 60 for membership ---- 34
Age 59 1/2 for membership – 2
Age 59 for membership ----- 1
Age 55 for membership ----- 5
Age 50 for membership ----- 1
No age specified ----- 2

Thanks again to everyone and if anyone wants to be recorded just let me know at john@falmouthmass.us

Intergenerational Request: I sometimes get requests from advisors and clergy people asking for ways students in, Key Club, National honor Society, youth groups, confirmation classes etc. that high school students could help older people in community services projects. I am wondering if any of you have programs that link individual seniors with a student. What I would like to encourage, if I follow through with this, would be kids checking to see if errands needed to be run, walks needed shoveling etc, and hopefully, in some cases, some real relationships might grow out of it. We do not have a facility that can accommodate group activities, and I hate to turn away people who want to volunteer, not to mention the organizations who might complain that they have offered to help and we don't take them up on it. If I go forward with anything of this nature, it would obviously have to involve partnerships with adults advising the kids. We would need time limits, paperwork and liability releases etc. Please let me know if you do anything along this line. Jane A. Haines, Director, Council on Aging, 137 Central St, East Bridgewater MA 02333 508-378-1610

Request for updated Job Descriptions for Board Members, Committee Members & Linda Roberts, Nantucket Council on Aging, Saltmarsh Senior Center, 81 Washington Street, Nantucket, MA 02554 phone: 508-228-4490 fax: 508-325-5366 Also send responses to Marilyn Mansfield [<mailto:lakevillecoa@comcast.net>]

Transportation Training: If you know of any driver training programs (preferably in Worcester County, but may be outside the area) that incorporate first aid, CPR, passenger sensitivity, wheelchair lift and securement and defensive driver training, would you please forward information regarding same to: Michelle Edelstein [medelstein@town.sutton.ma.us]

Spirituality and Wellness: We are asking other COA's what they are doing for programs, classes, etc. in the fields of Spirituality and Wellness. We would like to start a similar program here in Wrentham, but want to be careful about the boundaries of religion and town department issues. Thank you for your help.

Janet Angelico, Wrentham, janetwrencoa@yahoo.com

Data Collection: I'm preparing an RFP to purchase a data collection program for our senior center. I'm looking a My Senior Center, Servtracker and Coats. I'm getting overwhelmed trying to compare the different programs. Can you send this to other directors to see what their experience has been, what they found in comparing the programs and how they like what they have? I would be most grateful.

Chris Quinn, Stoughton Council on Aging Director, cquinn@stoughton-ma.gov

Outreach Intake: I'm looking to rewrite my Outreach intake form and would like to know if any other COA's have recently updated their forms and if so if they would be willing to share the new form. Thanks so much for your help with this request. I hope to see you soon. Best regards, Mary Ann Sullivan Milton COA
masullivan@townofmilton.org

MCOA Briefs: Member Requests continued

Leap Year Activities: I am looking for information and/or ideas for anyone who has done something at their Senior Center to celebrate Leap Year. I have been all over the Internet but it wasn't much help. Please put out one of your emails for this. Thank you Ruth Anne Bleakney msc@worldband.net

Building Costs: Looking for information regarding estimated or actual costs to either renovate an existing building or start from the ground up to build a new senior center. At present, we lease space in a senior housing apartment complex. The lease agreement restricts our center's operational hours to a total of only 8 hours weekly (2 days from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.). We are looking for any information from councils that have gone through said process of obtaining a center through grants, Friends, etc. Our senior population is approx. 10% of total town residents and growing in number every year. We want to offer the elderly more programs/seminars/services and the only way we can do that is to expand our time spent with them. Please help. Sheila Chmielowski, Director Bolton Council on Aging email: coa@townofbolton.com

Supportive Day Program: We are starting up a Supportive Day Program at our Center and wondered if we could get copies of Supportive Day Program Policies from Centers that currently run these programs? Thanks for your help, Karen Alves, Senior Center Director Franklin Senior Center 10 Daniel McCahill Street Franklin, MA 02038 (508) 520-4945 (508) 520-4917 fx

Housing Developers: Does anyone have any information on any private entity that develops and/or builds housing for the elderly? Are there any grants other than Housing and Community Development out there? We have an old school which is no longer occupied. We are not sure if it would be financially or structurally feasible to turn it into housing units. So we'd like to know of anyone who might take a look at it especially if they do this kind of development. Of course this would need to be approved by the Town but in the meantime we would like to get as much info as possible. Thanks for any assistance you can provide. Jeanne Debruin Lunenburg COA jdebruin@lunenburgonline.com

Seniors & Homeowners Insurance Costs: I am wondering if anyone else has come across Seniors who no longer can afford to pay for homeowners insurance and have let the policy lapse? I have come across this twice while doing fuel assistance applications and it concerns me that their house is paid for and their "asset" but if there is a fire (or whatever) the Senior would literally have nothing! I spoke with our State Rep this morning and she would like me to see what the numbers might be and if this is a BIG problem or just a regionalized one. Please respond to Alma DeManche Executive Director, Westborough Senior Center ademanche@town.westborough.ma.us Thank you.

Receptionist Job Description: Respond to Irene O'Brien, Director Elder Services
Town of North Andover, 120 R Main Street, North Andover, MA. 01846 978 688-9560
Iobrien@townofnorthandover.com

Volunteer Application: The Marshfield Council on Aging will be revising our volunteer application forms and creating a new volunteer informational brochure. It would be helpful to have a copy of a sample application, brochures or any additional forms that volunteers complete in order to work. Any pertinent information can be mailed to the Marshfield Council on Aging, 230 Webster Street, Marshfield, MA 02050 or Emailed to coadmoxie@comcast.net or faxed at (781) 834-5567. to Debra Moxie, Volunteer Coordinator Please call (781-834-5581) if you have any questions. Your help is greatly appreciated. Thank you

MCOA Briefs: Job Opportunities

Council on Aging Coordinator: Boxborough- Respond to Town Administrator Definition: Professional, administrative and supervisory work associated with providing outreach services and programming to enable the Town's elders to remain independent, active and involved in the community. **Distinguishing Characteristics:** Works under the administrative direction of the Town Administrator within policies established by the Board of Selectmen and Council on Aging. Performs responsibilities of a professional and administrative nature requiring the exercise of judgment in solving both commonly encountered and unusual problems/issues. Work activities often require further research and investigation prior to determining a course of action or making a decision. Contacts are with staff in other departments, the general public, vendors, suppliers, agencies, religious and elder-service organizations, health care providers, Town officials, and State officials and requires the explanation, discussion and interpretation of issues. The position requires the employee to exercise courtesy, tact, diplomacy and empathy in dealing with a diverse population. Provides guidance to volunteers who provide support services to the Town's elders. Establishes department goals and prepares department budget in conjunction with the COA Treasurer for review/approval. Errors of omission or commission could result in legal repercussions, monetary loss, loss of goodwill, and/or failure to meet deadlines. Maintains department-related confidential information, as well as confidential information regarding population served. Work is performed under favorable office conditions. Work requires attendance at Town meetings and work after Town offices are closed. Negligible physical effort required in performing the duties under typical office conditions. Work is basically office-type but may require non-sedentary duties involving moderate physical efforts. May require site visits to the home-bound. **Examples of Work:** Provides support to the Council on Aging; posts meetings; plans meeting agendas; produces minutes and follows-through on decisions/actions. Prepares statistical and written reports of the department's and COA's activities, program attendance including the annual report; files required reports with Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Advises COA, Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen on legislative changes, developments and trends in gerontology and programs/services; researches and identifies services based on needs of the population; advocates for services and prepares proposals for funding and approval. Oversees operations of senior van, including supervision of Van Dispatcher and drivers. Works with COA on researching demographics, population needs to support the preparation and development of ongoing planning of COA's services. Researches grant opportunities; prepares grant applications; administers grant funding received. **Recruits, trains, and schedules volunteers; coordinates the Senior Work-Off Program.** Develops and builds relationships with state and local officials, community leaders, charitable foundations, "Friends of Seniors" and other citizens groups serving and supporting elders; maintains listings of resources (service providers, in-kind, informal, public, private, non-profit, civic, religious, fraternal, educational). Provides direct services (e.g., needs assessment), including information & referral, counseling (e.g., professional guidance) and other support/assistance. Requires counseling elders on their eligibility for services; assists elders in applying for services. Arranges for speakers and instructors for educational and public interest sessions; speaks to groups/organizations regarding COA functions and activities; prepares and leads educational and public interest sessions for elders; prepares contracts and negotiates speaker/instructor fees, as required. Maintains up-to-date "intake" files, including basic demographic, and service need information; maintains databases including "File for Life". Prepares and promotes services and activities by preparing monthly schedule of activities, preparing and distributing newsletters and press releases. Conducts office administration responsibilities to include answering correspondence and telephone calls; manages accounts receivable and payable for the department; coordinates enrollment in activities/programs; inventories supplies and makes purchases. Performs other position related duties as assigned. **RECOMMENDED MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:** I – Education and Experience College degree. Minimum of three years of responsible work in a community organization, social work, gerontology, human relations, recreation or related field. Master's degree preferred; or any equivalent combination of education and experience

Part-time Outreach Coordinator: Town of Northborough

The Town of Northborough seeks a Part-time Senior Center Outreach Coordinator. Starting wage for this 15 hour/week position is \$19.45/hour. This position reports to the Senior Center Director. Responsibilities include coordinating programming and services; advocating for mature citizens with various community organizations, local and state agencies; conducting home visits and assessments; and informing citizens of the availability of resources and services. Requires a Bachelor's degree in Sociology or Social Work, or Gerontology and 3 years experience in community volunteerism and/or social services with elder resources; or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Position requires a valid Class D motor vehicle license to visit citizens in their homes. Excellent verbal and written communication skills a must. Please submit a letter of interest and/or resume and completed Town of Northborough Employment Application to the Town Administrator's Office. AA/EOE

Council on Aging Coordinator: Town of Boxborough

The Town of Boxborough is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Council on Aging Coordinator. Boxborough is a small, thriving community located at the crossroads of Interstate 495 and Route 111, approximately 28 miles west of Boston, with a senior (60+) population of 650. The Coordinator works under the direction of the Town Administrator within policies established by the Board of Selectmen and Council on Aging and provides referral services and programming to enable the town's seniors to remain independent, active and involved in the community. Seeking individual with BA plus 3 years' experience in social work, gerontology, psychology, social services, or related field. Master's degree preferred; or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Successful candidate shall be knowledgeable in elder needs and resources; familiar with state and local laws, practices and regulations relating to human/elder services; able to respect/preserve confidentiality and exercise independent judgment and empathize with elders. Computer skills and driver's license required. Position is 35 hours per week. Salary: \$40,000's depending upon experience and qualifications. Send cover letter and resume by 1/31 to: selina.shaw@town.boxborough.ma.us or by mail to Town Administrator, 29 Middle Road, Boxborough, MA 01719. AA/EOE.

MCOA Briefs: Job Opportunities continued

HOMEOWNER OPTIONS FOR MASSACHUSETTS ELDERS (H.O.M.E.): Assistant Director

Homeowner Options for Massachusetts Elders (H.O.M.E.) is a private nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the equity of low- and moderate-income elder homeowners so they can afford to “age in place” with dignity and financial security. A nationally recognized model for elder homeowner protection, H.O.M.E.’s foundational program is its in-depth professional counseling for clients on a range of financial, homeowner, and elder issues, including loans when no other alternative is available to sustain clients in their homes. If a loan is determined to be appropriate, H.O.M.E.’s unique partnership with over 70 community lenders offering low-cost Reverse Mortgage Loans and Senior Equity Lines of Credit developed solely in support of H.O.M.E.’s mission plays a critical role. H.O.M.E. also provides advocacy on public policy issues to protect low- and moderate-income elder homeowners.

GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION: The **Assistant Director** is responsible for managing H.O.M.E program and staff activities. This includes providing training and supervision to H.O.M.E. staff, developing and maintaining systems for managing workflow and serving clients, and maintaining relationships with a wide spectrum of private and public agencies, including contract compliance and reporting. The Assistant Director provides some direct case support to selected clients and reports directly to H.O.M.E.’s Executive Director.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Assist the Executive Director in recruitment, hiring, and training of new staff.
2. Provide day-to-day supervision and mentoring to H.O.M.E. staff, volunteers, and interns.
3. Generate, track and manage project budgets.
4. Produce timely, accurate, and detailed reports in a variety of formats to governmental and intermediary agencies regarding H.O.M.E.’s client work and other activities.
5. Develop, coordinate and/or present in-service trainings on relevant topics to H.O.M.E. staff and partners.
6. Provide some counseling and case management services to clients on issues such as budgeting, debt management, public benefits, home repairs, consumer protection, foreclosure prevention, and creative home equity conversion options.
7. Analyze eligibility for and maximize client benefit from available benefits, programs, services, and loan products.
8. Communicate frequently both verbally and in writing with clients, family members, service providers, attorneys, lenders and government agencies.
9. Prepare and/or present commentary on policy issues relevant to the financial security of low and moderate elder homeowners.

QUALIFICATIONS: A Bachelor’s degree, preferably in a related field. Previous experience such as the following very helpful: program/employee management; work with low-income and/or elder populations; work in a related field (legal or paralegal position, housing or real estate, etc.). Excellent organizational skills essential, including ability to multi-task, prioritize, and pay attention to details. Also important: excellent communication skills; ability to perform detailed mathematical calculations and comprehend complex financial transactions; proficiency with MS Word; willingness to learn and apply website-based applications; and willingness to drive on a regular basis. Knowledge of the services, programs, and benefits available to elders is preferred.

COMPENSATION: Salary range mid-\$40s to \$53,000 (depending on experience), 80% employer-paid health insurance, paid vacation, personal, and sick time.

Please mail resume and cover letter to: H.O.M.E. 150 Grossman Drive, Suite 401 Braintree, MA 02184 or e-mail resume and cover letter to: masselders@verizon.net H.O.M.E. is an Affirmative Action, Equal Opportunity Employer.

Massachusetts Senior Action Council: Development Director

Massachusetts Senior Action Council (MSAC) is seeking a development director help build on our 27 years of community-based organizing for social and economic justice. Founded in 1981, MSAC is respected as one of the most effective grassroots senior advocacy organizations in the nation. We have an unparalleled record of winning legislative campaigns and institutional change based on the ability to engage large numbers of members in public action. MSAC has 7 chapters across the state with 1,200 dues paying members and dozens of affiliated organizations. We are democratically run by a statewide board of member activists that meet monthly. Our membership is diverse and primarily low-income. Our leaders pride themselves on fighting for this and future generations.

Responsibilities include:

- Helping to develop a long-term fundraising plan for financial self-sufficiency
- Writing grants and reports to foundations, corporation and religious funders.
- Developing annual fund drive, including primary responsibility for annual dinner.
- Maintaining data base and reporting systems.
- Assisting members with grassroots fundraising
- Helping to develop statewide board capacity

Qualifications

Demonstrated ability to research, write and secure grant support, experience developing a major donor base, capacity to meet deadlines, event planning experience, and commitment to MSAC’s mission. Marketing or public relation experience helpful. We encourage applications from women and people of color.

Compensation

Salary range high \$40’s – low \$50’s depending on experience. Benefits include full individual health insurance or partial family/couple coverage, 13 paid holidays, employer paid pension plan, two weeks paid vacation in first year, and paid personal days.

To Apply: Send resume and cover letter to Search Committee, Mass Senior Action Council, 565 Warren St, Boston, MA 02121 or email to skirby@masssenioraction.org. Sue Kirby, Executive Director Massachusetts Senior Action Council Phone: (617) 442-3330 Cell: (617)833-5064 Fax: (617) 442-3733 www.masssenioraction.org

MCOA Briefs: Job Opportunities continued

SHINE PROGRAM: Regional Director

Location: Middleborough Council on Aging 558 Plymouth Street Middleborough, MA. 02346

Hours: 30 hours per week Wages: In accordance with experience

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Satisfactory completion of certification training directed by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs staff or agreement to participate in the next available training.
2. Manage all aspects of the region SHINE Program, including management of a volunteer health benefit counselors, program reporting, record keeping, public relations, customer service, and outreach to consumers, including elders and their spouses, caregivers, disabled Medicare beneficiaries, and low income, limited English speaking or minority individuals..
3. In cooperation with member agencies, develop placements and scheduled work times for counselors at sites to meet with consumers.
4. In cooperation with member agencies, recruit, interview and select volunteers for training and match them with definite work site(s) and schedules.
5. Conduct monthly training meetings with counselors to train on health insurance issues, develop public speaking skills, assign outreach events to counselors, and discuss other counseling activities. Evaluate level of understanding of counselors through use of role-plays, written exercises or essays, case reviews, on a regular basis.
6. Visit counselors at least once each year while counseling to observe and evaluate their counseling skills and knowledge.
7. Respond to counselors who seek technical assurance or advice in handling cases.
8. Attend SHINE Regional Directors meetings called by the State Director and other specialized training sessions identified by the State SHINE Program Director.
9. Attend training sessions, conference and other meetings relevant to SHINE program goals and functions.
10. Coordinate all local program publicity, marketing and outreach to alert consumers of the program's mission and availability.
11. After 1 year as regional director, apply to Elder Affairs State Program Director to become SHINE Program trainer

Qualifications:

- College degree in human service field and three years experience in related work or high school diploma with 5 years in human service field
- Experience with public speaking preferred – comfort speaking in public necessary
- Experience with budgets and fiscal management
- Experience as a problem solver
- Knowledge of the elder network
- Strong interpersonal skills and time management essential
- Driver's license and access to insured transportation required
- Computer skills required for use of Word, email and Internet communications.
- Ability to lead and supervise a diverse team of volunteers and professional

Pursuant to Federal Regulation 51.55(e)(k)(6), the Town of Middleborough does not discriminate on the basis of handicapped status in admission or access to or treatment in its programs and activities.

Franklin Senior Center Supportive Day Care Program: Position: Supportive Day Care Program Coordinator. The SDCP Coordinator manages the day-to-day operations of the Program and creates a safe and stimulating program using initiative and a working knowledge of the elder service programs and resources. The SDC Coordinator manages the Program within those policies set by the Council on Aging under the supervision of the Senior Center Director, while planning, developing and implementing programs to serve the community's elders.

Duties and Responsibilities: Responsible for direct contact with program participants including:

- Performing client assessments to determine if a client is appropriate for the program and providing program information to clients and their caregivers.
- Setting up Program space and implementation of programming using judgment, discretion, and sensitivity to each client's interests and abilities while maintaining close contact, encouraging and monitoring participation.
- Facilitate each transition into the Supportive Day Program by frequent communication with the client and caregiver.
- Hygiene, bathroom use, and other daily living skills.
- Assistance with mobility limitations as a guide, or if necessary, assist moving clients with a wheelchair.
- Serve as liaison or advocate between clients and community agencies or others; assisting in the provision of social services when needed.
- Acquainting potential or new participants and caregivers with the Programs services and activities.
- Coordination of Client transportation on an ongoing basis.
- Recruitment, training, scheduling, evaluation and supervision of staff and volunteers with the approval of the Senior Center Director; volunteer and staff motivation and organization.
- Maintaining and updating client files, care plans and other written reports including a record of participant's attendance, progress, and pertinent medical and social information.
- Generate bills to families, caregivers, or other agencies for reimbursement.
- Providing outreach to inform individuals in the community, appropriate agencies and organizations about the Program and other offerings available through the Senior Center.
- Preparing publicity materials as directed and a monthly calendar for clients and caregivers.
- Participating in the preparation of the Program budget and working to secure supplemental funding when indicated.
- Participating in staff meetings by listening, sharing ideas, concerns and suggestions, and relaying non-routine complaints and problems to Senior Center Director for resolution.
- Performing other related work as required or as the situation dictates.

Qualifications:

- Must have previous experience in a Supportive Day Care setting.
- Bachelor's degree in Gerontology or a related field.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills. CORI Check, Good Driving Record, CPR & First Aide
- Computer literate and able to operate standard equipment at the Senior Center,
- Work cooperatively with staff and volunteers, safeguard confidential information, be pleasant, honest, detail Oriented, and demonstrate good phone skills.

MCOA Briefs: Educational Opportunity

QPR Certification Training

Question, Persuade, Refer Suicide Prevention Certification Training

For Elder Service Providers & Providers for People with Disabilities

Space is limited. Registration deadline is February 20, 2008

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health Suicide Prevention Program is sponsoring a train-the-trainer certification training by the nationally recognized **QPR Institute**.

In Massachusetts, as well as across the nation, elders have the highest rates of suicide and people with disabilities have a much higher risk than the general population. This training is targeted to caregivers who work with older adults and providers of services to people with disabilities.

This certification prepares instructors to teach *QPR for Suicide Prevention* to members of their community. The usual cost of this certification training is \$400 per person. DPH Suicide Prevention Program is underwriting the cost and offering it **free of charge** in exchange for participants who receive certification agreeing to train a minimum of 25 gatekeepers within 12 months of course completion.

Date: February 27, 2008

Place: College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA

Time: 8:00-5:00

All materials, CEs, breakfast and luncheon included

This program sponsored by: Suicide Prevention Program, Massachusetts Department of Public Health
& AdCare Educational Institute, Inc.

"Focus" on Vision Impairment & Blindness Conference: Meeting the Needs of Individuals with Cognitive Disability & Vision Loss" will be held on March 12, 2008, 8:00am - 3:30pm at the Holiday Inn, Taunton, MA

Registration Information:

**** Early Registration Fee** post marked by February 1, 2007: \$40.00

Registration Fee post marked after February 1, 2007: \$50.00

Registration needed by February 25, 2008 to attend conference.

Registration Brochure and Form will be downloadable from "Regional Training" or "Happenings" sections of the NERCVE website: www.nercve.umb.edu

Keynote Speakers:

Y.K. Gary Chu, OD, MPH
Vice President, Community Collaborations,
Assoc. Prof New England College of Optometry

Barry S. Kran, OD, FAAO Chief, Individuals with
Disabilities Service, Associate Professor New
England College of Optometry,
New England Eye Institute Optometric Director,
NE Eye Perkins Low Vision Clinic

"Progressive Vision Loss in Individuals with Cognitive Disability: Prevalence, Causes and Effects"

Sponsors: New England Eye Institute, New England Center Deafblind Project,
DMR Southeast Region Training Council, MA Commission for the Blind

Friends: Lowell Association for the Blind, Perkins Training Center,
Northeast Regional Center for Vision Education (NERCVE)

Contributors: The Carroll Center for the Blind, Shriver Clinical Services

Additional Information: Lisa.DiBonaventura@state.ma.us 508 -384-5539

MCOA Briefs: Educational Opportunity continued

University of Massachusetts, Boston Gerontology Program

On-Line Course Offering For Spring 08 Manning Certificate Program In Gerontology

**Instructor: Patricia Rivard, MBA, former Director
Home Care Program, Massachusetts
Executive Office of Elder Affairs**

The first course will be Social and Economic Implications of Aging (3 credits). It may be applied to the Manning Certificate in Gerontology and/or the Bachelor's degree in Gerontology

Course Description: This course will teach you to find and use demographic and economic information about the status of the elderly in the United States, and assess the impact of these factors on their quality of life.

Students will learn about the aging network and the major health and social policy programs, and other services impacting elders. This course has been approved for CEU credit by the Massachusetts Board of Registration for Nursing Home Administrators.

Our on-campus classes in Gerontology continue to be offered morning, afternoon, and evening at UMass Boston. Our afternoon research project will be related to Assessing Livable Communities: Conducting Focus Groups with Older Adults. The Monday evening research project will concern issues affecting older adults at risk and will partner with community organizations. This work will contribute to a case workbook for educators and practitioners addressing best practices with elders at risk. The Manning Program has been approved for financial aid.

For information, please contact Mary St. Jean at 617-287-7330 or email Mary.Stjean@umb.edu

FREE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY: Suicide Prevention for Older People

The Samaritans of Merrimack Valley is offering a free, Department of Public Health-funded training for "gatekeepers" to reduce the incidence of suicide among people ages 55 and older in the Merrimack Valley.

Gatekeepers are people who, through their personal, professional or volunteer activities, have regular contact with older adults. After the training, participants will be able to assess an elder's suicide risk, intervene with an individual at risk, and connect elders with ongoing professional help.

Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) are available for nurses, social workers, Licensed Mental Health Counselors (LMHCs) and EMTs for 6.5 hours. Certificates for 6.5 hours are available for professionals (nurse's aides, food service workers, activities staff, transportation staff, administrative assistants, etc.) that are in need of training hours. A Gatekeeper Training will be held **Thursday, February 14, 2008** from 9 AM to 5 PM at Family Service, Inc in Lawrence. The number of participants is limited to no less than 5 and no more than 12 so early registration is recommended. Lunch will be provided. Go to www.familyserviceinc.com for directions.

To register for the February 14 training or to schedule a training at your facility, contact:

Mary Quinn, LICSW Samaritans Training Coordinator 978-688-0030 mquinn@familyserviceinc.com

The Institute for Geriatric Social Work Announces A New Course Open to the Public Today!

ISP Course: Older Adults and End-of-Life Issues (\$60, 4 CEUs)

This course will help to prepare social service practitioners for the care they will provide both to older adults as they approach the end of life, and also to their families and friends as they share that journey. It also provides tools to help social service practitioners assess their own attitudes toward death through exercises in self-awareness, and provides practical methods of self-care. The course addresses the challenges and rewards of providing end-of-life care to older adults, and draws on both professional expertise and practical experience. Clinical practice techniques, assessment and evaluation methods, as well as care planning and treatment interventions, provide the structure of the course.

To register for this course, please visit: <http://www.igsw.org>

IGSW's extensive course catalog features more than 30 accredited online courses in aging, as well as an Online Certificate in Aging. Our courses are: Self-paced (available 24/7) ; Affordable (\$15 per CEU); Short (3 to 5 hours long)

Visit [IGSW's website](http://www.igsw.org) for more information about IGSW online courses, or contact IGSW at 617-358-2626 or info@igsw.org

MCOA
OUTREACH SUMMIT WORKING GROUP
&
BUFFET LUNCHEON
New Location: Milford Senior Center
New Day: Thursday, March 20, 2008

Agenda:

- 9:30 - 10:00** **Registration**
- 10:00 - 10:15** **Welcome and Introductions**
- 10:15 – 12:15** **“ASAP 101”**
This program begins with the basics of what ASAP is, how the ASAP function, what the programs are and what the benefits are for seniors when outreach coordinators and ASAP staff work together.
Deborah Arsenault OTR/L, Coordinator,
Consumer Choices Programs,
Bay Path, Framingham, MA
- 12:15 - 1 2:45** **Buffet Luncheon**
- 1:00 - 2:00** **“A roundtable discussion on the morning program.”**
Bring your questions, thoughts and input on the ASAP programs.
Susan Desmarais, Outreach Worker, Edgartown COA

Registration deadline is Tuesday, March 11, 2007
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 to: MCOA, 116 Pleasant Street, Ste 306, Easthampton, MA 01027-1283
Or: Tel: (413)527-6425, Fax: (413) 527-7138 or Email: janiece@mcoasonline.com

Directions to Milford Council on Aging: 60 North Bow Street, Milford, MA 01757, (508) 473.8334
From Route 495, take exit 20 for Milford, Routes 85 & 16. If you are coming from the **south**, turn **left** onto route 85. From the **north**, turn **right** onto route 85. Proceed to the end of Route 85, and then turn **right** at the lights onto Route 16. Follow Route 16 through **3 sets of lights** (Sacred Heart Church will be on the left at second set of lights). At third set of lights, turn **left** on North Bow Street, Senior Center is on the left side at the bottom of the hill.

MCOA 2007-2008 Planning Calendar

UPCOMING Events: - Circulate to Your Staff

2008

Feb 15	MCOA Membership, Milford COA
Feb 28 th	Consumers' Utility Rights and Fuel Assistance for Elders Foxborough 10-2
March 14	MCOA Advisory Council, Milford COA
March 20	MCOA Outreach Summit, Milford COA
April 18	MCOA Board, Worcester EOE
April 29	TRIAD Conference, Log Cabin in Holyoke
May 15	State Fall Prevention Symposium, Worcester
May 16	MCOA Advisory Council, Milford COA
May 20	Joint WMASS Spring Conference
May 22	MCOA Volunteers Coordinators, Bellingham
June 4	Aging and Dignity Conference, Holy Cross
June 18	MCOA Outreach, Worcester EOE
June 20	MCOA Membership, Milford COA
July 17	MCOA Advisory Council, Milford COA
August 21	MCOA Board, Worcester EOE (Thursday Summer meeting)
Sept 18	MCOA Outreach Summit, Milford COA
Sept 19	MCOA Membership, Milford COA
Oct 15-17	MCOA Fall Conference, Sea Crest Resort, Falmouth

TBA = Date or Location to be announced

Regional Meetings:

WMACA	represents the four western MA counties, meets quarterly. Judy White/Monson COA (413)267-4121
CEMACA	represents Central MA, meets 4/year. Betsy Connell/ Worcester EOE (508)799-8030
CIRCA	represents SE MA and Cape Cod and the Islands, meets quarterly. John Magnani/Falmouth (508)540-0196
NSACA	represents greater North Shore area meets quarterly. Contact Diane Bertolino/Rockport (978)546-2573
Blackstone Valley	Consortium meets regularly Contact Ruth Anne Bleakney/Milford (508)473-8334
DUN/MetroWest	Consortium meets regularly. Contact Mary Parcher/Framingham (508)6204819 &
Minuteman	Consortium meets regularly. Terri Marciello/Wilmington (978)657-7595
Merrimack Valley	Consortium meets regularly. Roseann Robillard/ Newburyport COA (978)462-8650 or Lynne Stanton/ Groveland COA (97)372-1101
HESSCO Area	Consortium meets regularly. Contact Barbara Coghlan/ Walpole (508)668-3330 or Janet Angelico/Wrentham (508)384- 5425 or Pat Carty Larkin/Westwood (781)329-8799
Greater Boston	Unaffiliated COAs in Boston, Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop, Somerville, & Cambridge
LOHSC	Meets the 2 nd Friday of each month at MMA/Boston. Contact Bob Cammarata/ Taunton (508)821-1425

UpComing National Conferences:

March 26-30, 2008 Joint Conference of NCOA and the American Society on Aging, Washington, DC

March 16-19, 2009 Joint Conference of NCOA and the American Society on Aging Las Vegas, NV

October 6-9, 2009 MCOA Fall Conference Sturbridge Host

This version: January 25, 2008

Checkout www.mcoaonline.com for the most updated version

Deadline is Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Certified Staff Please Bring Your Portfolios

MCOA

Membership Meeting

February 15, 2008

Milford's Senior Center

9:30 - 10am Registration

10am- 10:30 Business Meeting

Updates: FY09 Legislative Agenda
Committee Reports

10:45- 12:15pm Defining the Mental Health Service Needs of COAs: A Roundtable Discussion:

What are we encountering in the field and at our centers?

What services do we need to better serve our elders?

What type of training is needed for our staff?

12:15- 1:00pm Buffet Lunch

1:00 - 2:30pm Committee Meetings: (None scheduled as we go to print)

Registration Deadline is Tuesday, February 12, 2008*(received by noon)

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

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

Note a Council on Aging or Agency is considered a member if your FY2008 Dues were paid or will be paid.

Registrant's Name

Council /Agency

Number of Members Registered _____ x \$20.00 = _____

Number of Non-members _____ x \$40.00= _____

Morning Meeting Only _____ x \$10.00= _____

Total Due \$_____

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

Send to: MCOA 116 Pleasant Street - Room 306, Easthampton, MA 01027-2740

Or call: (413)527-6425

Or Fax: (413)527-7138

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

If lost contact Milford COA at (508)473-8334.