



Elderberry Institute eNews

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Program Profile: West 7th Living at Home/Block Nurse Program

With a population of over 10,400 people, the West 7th area is one of the oldest neighborhoods in St. Paul. It is home to more than 1,300 seniors, many of whom receive services from the West 7th Living at Home/Block Nurse Program. The Program is located in the West 7th Neighborhood in St. Paul and extends West to Interstate 35E, East to the river, North to Kellogg Boulevard and South to Montreal Avenue.

The Program operates just like most of the other LAH/BNPs throughout the state, but there is something unique about the West 7th Living at Home/Block Nurse Program that many people may not know. The Program was originally started as a Living at Home Commonwealth national demonstration model in 1987. The idea of the Program was to help seniors of all different situations. These seniors included those who were

healthy but needed assistance, those with intermediate health needs and those seniors who needed to be referred to a nursing agency.

In 1990, a collaborative effort began with the help of the St. Paul Foundation to merge the Living at Home Program model with the Block Nurse Programs. In the following year, the West 7th Living at Home/Block Nurse Program was formed with the help of a state grant.

Today, the Program is run by Program Director Maureen Davidson with help from an additional staff of four people that includes a block nurse. Currently, the Program is a strong organization in the community and it continues to increase its numbers of participants served through its services.

Welcome to the Network!

- Lynn Holstrom - *Board Chair, Granite Falls*
- Amy Michael - *Staff, Summit University*
- Charleen Schermerhorn - *Board Chair, Frazee*

Congratulations!

Chris Langer, Program Director at the North End-South Como LAH/BNP was recognized as a WCCO Good Neighbor. Way to go, Chris!

Important Date

- *January 31 - 2nd Qtr. Financial Report
(31 LAH/BNPs receiving base dollars)*

Attention Program Directors:

In order for our support to be more effective, please remember to keep EI updated with changes to your board, staff or contact info!

Network News: Cost & Services Analysis

The 2004-2005 Cost & Services Analysis final data is now available. The numbers reflect our best effort to estimate the amount of money that was saved by both the private and public sectors through the work of local Living at Home/Block Nurse Programs throughout Minnesota as well as Enderlin in North Dakota.

In Fiscal Year 2004-2005, the 42 Living at Home/Block Nurse Programs helped keep 1,002 people out of nursing homes for a total of 7,508 months. If these people had been in nursing homes, the care-related cost to the federal and state government, as well as health plans and private individuals would have been about \$19,338,751. The cost for providing service to these 1,002 people through LAH/BNPs was about \$1,385,048. This represents a savings of almost \$18 million.

In FY 2003-04, 40 LAH/BNPs saved over \$18 million dollars. While the 2004-05 Analysis indicates a slight drop in the savings from 2003-04, we believe that can be explained by the fact that the State of MN changed the way it calculated the average cost of a nursing home stay. That change actually resulted in a reduction of the average cost of a nursing home stay in the Twin Cities Metropolitan area during 2004-05.

Additional information from the Analysis has been mailed out to each Program, and should be used by local Programs when communicating with their legislators. The information will also be posted on the Elderberry Website by the end of the day on Tuesday, January 31.

Elderberry Update: 2005 Assessment/2006 Assistance Needed - Survey Results

In November, we sent out a survey and asked that each Board Chair, Program Director and Service Coordinator give us some feedback in order to assess our effectiveness in serving the LAH/BNP network. 27 surveys were returned, so the following information is our best attempt to relay accurate results regarding the strengths and weaknesses of Elderberry Institute throughout 2005.

According to the surveys, Bernie Ryan, Executive Assistant, was contacted the most by Programs looking for general information and help with contracts & reporting. Tom Gossett, Associate Director, was next in line, contacted mostly for help with the EI Database System. Wyn Douglas & Laura Beam, Administrative Assistants, were used frequently for general questions, issues concerning reporting, and computer help. Malcolm Mitchell, Executive Director, was contacted by Programs with questions regarding budgets and funding.

Overall, the surveys show that Programs are happy with the quality of service from Elderberry. Responses show that our service is prompt, useful, and informative. There were many suggestions made concerning issues that need more attention, and EI staff is carefully reviewing those ideas in order to make our 2006 service even more effective. More detailed survey results will soon be available on the web.