



Happy Spring!

Elderberry Institute eNews

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Program Profile: Middle River/Thief Lake Living at Home/Block Nurse Program

The residents in the eastern side of Marshall County are lucky to have such an incredibly active and helpful Program right at their fingertips. The Middle River/Thief Lake Living at Home Block Nurse Program is an important part of several communities spanning throughout 12 townships that include Middle River, Thief Lake and Gatzke.

Since there is no hospital, clinic or long-term care facility located in this area, the nearly 300 elders living there are greatly benefited by the various services of their local LAH/BNP.

Currently under the direction of Sandi Bentley, the Program is now

entering its fifth year of serving seniors. They have many volunteers, some of whom spend time helping elders living outside of the Program's boundaries. They also have active community involvement in the form of church congregations and civic groups such as the American Legion and the Senior Citizens Club.

Recently the Program has begun mental health education for its staff and other area professionals. This training will help staff to recognize persons in need, care for them and make timely referrals. They also hope to have 'Art of Caring' training for their volunteers in the up-

coming year.

Along with these trainings, the Program is involved in a collaborative project with other LAH/BNPs in Marshall County as well as County Social Services. The object of the collaboration is to promote greater use of services and identify those persons who are eligible for but are not yet receiving services.

The busy schedule of the MR/TL LAH/BNP is made possible through various grants and fundraising. One of their most successful fundraising events is the Annual Variety Show that is held each winter. The Show includes local talents, food and raffle drawings.

Elderberry Update: Consumer Directed Services

Responding to Minnesota's interest in giving consumers more choice, more control and more responsibility for their care and support, Elderberry Institute is currently placing a major emphasis on Consumer Directed Services (CDS) and becoming what is known as a Fiscal Support Entity (FSE). At both the federal and state level, authorities are pushing implementation of this approach to funding. We believe that CDS provides an opportunity for Elderberry Institute, together with local LAH/BNPs, to access some sustainability funding and to better fulfill our missions of helping elders stay in their homes.

Currently, Elderberry Institute is in the process of preparing a readiness review to become a certified FSE in the state of MN. This would enable people being funded by Alternative Care and Elderly Waiver dollars to receive Flexible Case Management by LAH/BNPs (for a fee), and to have those dollars managed by Elderberry Institute (also for a fee). We have already entered into contractual

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Farewell & Good Luck!

- Kim Raths - Program Director, *Como Park*
- Jeanne Hanson - Program Director, *Edina*

Welcome to the Network!

- Theresa Buckley - Interim Program Director, *Como Park*
- Anne Hibbard - Interim Program Director, *Nokomis*
- Mark Shockey - Board Chair, *Edina*

Important Dates!

- **April 25** - Quarterly Services Report - 3rd Qtr
(ALL PROGRAMS)
- **April 25** - Program Narrative Report
(ALL PROGRAMS)
- **April 30** - 3rd Qtr. Financial Report
(31 Programs receiving base dollars)
- **May 31** - Annual Budget Form (ALL PROGRAMS)
- **May 31** - Numerical Goals (10 indicators)
(ALL PROGRAMS)
- **May 31** - Non-numeric Goals (ALL PROGRAMS)
- **May 31** - DHS Semi-Annual Payment Request
(31 Programs receiving base dollars)

*Consumer Directed -
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agreements with the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging to serve as the Fiscal Conduit for Title III-E (caregivers) and III-C (nutrition) funding.

Elderberry Institute has contracted with the MN River Area Agency on Aging to provide Consumer Directed Memory Care services, and with the Central MN Council on Aging to provide Title III-E and III-C services.

Elderberry Institute is working with an existing FSE, Partners in Community Supports (PICS), to do much of the "back room" work of processing payroll and other transactions for people who access CDS. In addition to helping people access government reimbursement for CDS, we will be working to enable elders and caregivers to pay privately for those services while having Elderberry Institute (in partnership with PICS) process their paperwork and local LAH/BNPs (or other service organizations) serve as Flexible Case Managers.

On May 22nd in St. Paul, Elderberry Institute is sponsoring an education session on the changing role of Counties and Health Plans in Minnesota and on Consumer Directed Services. Local LAH/BNPs are encouraged to attend and learn more about Consumer Directed Services and how they might benefit the elders/caregivers they serve as well as their local Program. Program board members and staff who wish to attend should contact Laura or Bernie at 800-320-1707 or 651-649-0315.

Network News: Salary Survey Results

The 2006 Salary Survey that was posted on the Elderberry website received 19 responses. The results have been tallied and categorized by Metro or Non-Metro Programs. These results can be viewed by logging on to the Member's Only side of the website.

The purpose of the survey was to provide our Programs with some insight into the current trends in Program Staff salaries. The resulting document includes averages as well as highest and lowest salaries. Please note that any questions answered with a zero were not included in the average.

April showers...



...bring May flowers!

Granite Falls Living at Home/Block Nurse Program Elders to participate in Art Project!

The Granite Falls Living at Home/Block Nurse Program received an invitation to submit a proposal to participate in The Minnesota Creative Arts and Aging Network.. The Program was recommended by a foundation that they received a grant from last year. Four sites were chosen from the State of Minnesota: Southern, Northern, Central and Western. Program Director Mary Ims received word on Tuesday, April 25th that they were chosen.

Each site will use a visual artist to inspire and support the older adult group with their creative expressions. Art Media can be done in batik, watercolors, acrylics and mixed media. The theme will be "WHAT BRINGS JOY TO YOUR LIFE"? Along with the art, the artists will write a poem or statement about their art. There will also be a picture taken by a local Granite Falls photographer of each artist next to their art, on the panel. There will be eight eld-

ers that will participate in this project from Granite Falls.

After the project is completed, it will be exhibited in a number of places in the Granite Falls community and then sent to Minneapolis for judging. One site will be selected for the White House Conference on Aging in Washington, D.C.

Written By: Mary Ims