



Elderberry Institute eNews

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Elderberry Update: The Changing Role of EI

As you all know, throughout the last half of 2005 and early 2006, Elderberry Institute's Board used an Ad Hoc Future Directions Task Force to explore options for company focus. After the proposal was presented and feedback was received, the Elderberry Board adapted the Elderberry mission statement to include a broader focus. The revised mission statement retains the basic statements of the original, but adds supporting statements that indicate how Elderberry intends to move forward in the future.

The adaptations state that Elderberry Institute will continue to serve as a resource center for LAH/BNPs but also community-based programs that helps elders remain in their homes. The following four principal strategies were adopted:

1. *Develop new and support existing Living at Home/Block Nurse Programs.*
2. *Support other community-based programs by offering products and services already available to LAH/BNPs that may assist the programs in helping elders remain in their homes.*
3. *Support consumer choice in care, such as serving as a fiscal support entity for consumer-directed care.*
4. *Facilitating systems change through participation as an intermediary organization in community collaboratives.*

As Elderberry continues its forward movement we expect that new opportunities will develop and allow us to continue to support existing and new Living at Home/Block Nurse Programs and to sustain Elderberry into the future.

Network News: May 22nd Education Event a Success!

On Monday, May 22nd Elderberry Institute hosted a two-part education event that covered the Changing Role of Counties & Health Plans as well as Consumer Directed Services. Forty-seven people attended, 17 of which represented LAH/BNPs. The morning presenters were Nan Just, Todd Monson and Beth Nelson. They provided an overview of the Changing Role of Counties and Health Plans from a county perspective and a health plan perspective. The presentation included issues such as government strategies and options, Minnesota Senior Health Options (MSHO), and the changes in elderly waivers and providers.

In the afternoon, presenters Jane Vujovich, Sandy Kasprzak and Tom Gossett gave a thorough overview of Consumer Directed Services. This overview provided the key points of CDS and listed who is eligible and what services they can purchase. The presentations also included the role of the Fiscal Support Entity and flexible case management as well as a description of a sample individual purchasing plan.

Feedback from the participants indicated that the sessions were very helpful and informative. The twenty-three evaluations received showed an overall average score of 4.4 out of 5 in terms of how useful and organized the event was.

Program Profile: SouthEast Seniors, A Living at Home/Block Nurse Program

In 1988, the Prospect Park Block Nurse Program was formed to help their local seniors due to lack of available services in their community. By the end of the decade, the surrounding areas expressed their interest in these services and the Program began discussions to establish a new program in the Southeast Minneapolis areas of Prospect Park, Como and Marcy-Holmes. In 1993 a new board of directors was elected and the Program was re-named SouthEast Seniors, A Living at Home/Block Nurse Program.

The Program is partnered with the MN Visiting Nurse Program, a Medicare-certified home-care agency to provide nursing and home health aide services. They also provide the typical LAH/BNP services such as volunteer transportation assistance, companionship and much more.

The major programs that SouthEast Seniors has developed have become a significant part of what they do. Their Visiting Volunteer Program finds volunteers that are matched with elders with similar interests. They also provide service coordination which allows the area elders to more easily find the assistance they need. This includes the Senior Resource Guide that lists individuals in the community that can help with various household tasks. The Intergenerational Program connects the area youth with elders. The students meet the elders for lunch but also work on service projects and play games.

SouthEast Seniors is currently under the direction of Marji Miller and has a staff of three including two block nurses and one service and intergenerational coordinator. You can read more about their Program at <http://www.seseniormpls.org>.

Important Dates!

JUNE

- **8** - Metro Board & Staff Orientation
- **22** - Elderberry Institute Board Meeting

JULY

- **5** - CMCOA 2nd Qtr Data Report & Narrative
- **5** - CMCOA 2nd Qtr Outcomes Report
- **5** - CMCOA 2nd Qtr Financial Report
- **5** - Red Cross Transportation 4th Qtr Data Report
- **5** - MAAA-MCCC 2nd Qtr Data Export Files
- **5** - MAAA-MCCC 2nd Qtr Financial Report
- **5** - MAAA-MCCC 2nd Qtr Payment Request Form
- **5** - VOA 2nd Qtr Financial, Quarterly Services Report & Health Problems Report
- **5** - MNRAA Qtr 2 Reports
- **10** - CSG-SPICE Data for April, May & June
- **10** - CSG - 4th Qtr Financial Report
- **10** - CDOE - 4th Qtr Financial & Data Report
- **15** - Ramsey County Accomplishments & Financials (for 1/1/06 - 6/30/06)
- **25** - Quarterly Services Report 4th Qtr (ALL PROGRAMS)
- **31** - Quarterly Financial Report 4th Qtr (31 Programs receiving Base Dollars)