



Elderberry Institute eNews

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Welcome to the Network!

- Cathy Croghan - Board Chair, *Roseville*
- Noreen Huntington - Volunteer Coordinator, *Roseville*
- Carol Upham - Board Chair, *St. Anthony Park*
- Maureen Davidson - Program Director, *West 7th*
- Judy Dandurand - Volunteer Coordinator, *Granite Falls*

Farewell & Good Luck!

- Amy Mortenson - Program Director, *Grove City*
- Therese Buckley - Program Director, *West 7th*
- Caryn Erickson - Service Coordinator, *Como Park*

Network News:

Legislative Update

Now that the election is over, it is time to think about building legislative support to increase and expand state funding for LAH/BNPs. The first step in building legislative support is to get to know your legislators and make sure they know you. Elderberry will be sending out information shortly to provide some resources for inviting your legislators for a site visit. Elderberry is currently working on meeting with key legislative contacts and identifying primary authors in the House and Senate. We plan on introducing our bill in the the early weeks of session. We are also scheduling a Day at the Capitol advocacy day in February. Look for helpful information soon including: new cost and service data, case statements, advocacy toolkits for a constituent letter writing campaign, handouts, and other supportive materials to build legislative support for LAH/BNPs.

Elderberry Update: Website & Database Growth

Last month, Elderberry was in the process of launching their new 'Resources Page' at www.elderberry.org. Although the page is still in transition, some of its features are now available.

Items on the 'Resource Page' include grant reporting forms and instructions as well as Consumer Directed Services information. Once the new page is fully implemented, the links for these items previously located in the 'Articles' section of the website will be removed.

In addition to grants and CDS, the 'Resources' page includes a section on the Elderberry Database System. Each Living at Home/Block Nurse Program was sent an e-mail regarding the Database System upgrade that is now available online. The e-mail included a unique username and password that allows each Program to access the upgrade file. As of November 30, 18 Programs have alerted Elderberry that they downloaded the file and completed the upgrade process. If you haven't received an e-mail with the upgrade instructions, contact Laura Muenchow at 651-649-0315 immediately!

In other database news, we are hoping to do a major upgrade within the next year that will include many features that have been requested by Programs in the previous months. Also, Elderberry would like to express its appreciation to Programs who have spread the word about the Elderberry Database System. We have sold six systems in 2006 with more sale prospects in the near future.

Program Profile: Nokomis Healthy Seniors

In 1994, Nokomis Healthy Seniors began as one program that was part of a Medicare Demonstration Project. The purpose of the project as a whole was to determine if a community organization with nurse managed care would have a positive effect on the health of seniors and reduce Medicare spending. By 1997 members of the Nokomis community in Minneapolis realized that they needed something else for seniors who were not eligible for the Medicare Demonstration Project.

When the Demonstration Project ter-

minated in 2000, the Nokomis Healthy Seniors staff realized that the seniors in their area still needed help. They began to expand their fundraising and took on all of the seniors that were being served by the previous project as well as additional seniors it had been serving outside of the project. By 2001 Nokomis Health Seniors was a full-fledged Living at Home/Block Nurse Program offering nursing services as well as volunteer and non-health care support.

The Program's services are offered to all elders living in the Nokomis

neighborhood in Minneapolis.

The boundaries extend north to parts of 36th St. and 42nd Ave. They then extend west to Interstate 35W, south to the Crosstown and east to Hiawatha and 46th.

Nokomis took on a new Program Director, Kristen Whittenbaugh earlier in 2006 and recently moved to a new location with a bigger office. Kristen is assisted by Volunteer/ Service/ Administrative Coordinators, Becky Beeskow, Margo Casey and Gloria Everson.