



# Elderberry Institute eNews

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## *Welcome to the Network!*

- Diane Thorsten - Volunteer Coordinator, Foley
- Jayne Krause - Board Chair, Pine Island

## *Farewell & Good Luck!*

- Lois Scripture - Board Chair, Pine Island
- Mary Jo Tarasar - Program Director, St. Anthony

## *Important Dates:*

- February 15 - Day at the Capitol

## *Elderberry Update*

The most urgent Elderberry news is our ongoing search for a new Community Liaison. In the past, we've had good results with applicants who were referred by someone within the Living at Home/Block Nurse Program Network. We would greatly appreciate any help you can give us in finding the right employee by spreading the word of the job opening. A detailed job description and further information can be found in the Breaking News section of [www.elderberry.org](http://www.elderberry.org).

In other news, Elderberry Staff is ready to submit a revised copy of our Readiness Review. The Readiness Review is essentially a detailed application that Elderberry will submit for review to the MN Department of Human Resources. Upon review, we hope to obtain approval that will then allow us to apply for Medicaid Certification as a Fiscal Support Entity for Consumer Directed Services.

## **Program Profile: Stephen Living at Home/Block Nurse Program**

The Stephen Living at Home/Block Nurse Program has been serving Stephen community elders since 1998. Stephen is the LAH/BNP located in the far Northwest corner of Minnesota and their Program's services extend to the boundaries of the Stephen School District. The 2000 Census put the Stephen population at just over 700 residents. In 2005-06, the Stephen LAH/BNP served about 50 of the elders living in its service area. As in most LAH/BNPs, the Program uses both profes-

sional and volunteer services from their town, and they do provide nursing services.

Lately, the Program has had great success with their Arthritis Exercise Program. They do the program two times each week and average about 12 attendees at each session. Those who have attended really appreciate the program and have already expressed interest in continuing the sessions. LAH/BNP staff is especially excited that they've had a request for an eve-

## *Network News*

By now all Living at Home/Block Nurse Programs should have received two items by postal mail:

- 2005-06 Cost & Services Analysis
- Legislative Packet/Day at the Capitol materials

All Cost and Services results/summaries are also available for download at [www.elderberry.org](http://www.elderberry.org). To view individual Program summaries you will have to log on to the Member's Only side of the website using the log-in on the left side of the homepage. We do apologize for the delay this year in release of these documents and appreciate the patience that you've all shown.

The Day at the Capitol is quickly approaching and we urge all Programs to continue contacting their legislators in order to make the best use of this day. If you have any questions about who to contact or need more copies of Legislative Packet materials, please contact Laura at [Lmuenchow@elderberry.org](mailto:Lmuenchow@elderberry.org). The Day at the Capitol has always been a great networking and learning opportunity for LAH/BNPs, don't miss out on this great event!

If you have used the Elderberry website to download grant reporting documents in the past, you should be aware that they have all moved. All grant reporting resources are now located at [www.elderberry.org/resource.asp](http://www.elderberry.org/resource.asp). As we've mentioned in the past, the Resources page of our website is slowly becoming a more important feature. If you have problems finding anything through this new page, don't hesitate to e-mail.

ning session!

This past December the Program had a holiday open house at their relatively new location. Two years ago the LAH/BNP moved their offices into a local bank which makes them more accessible.

Currently the Program staff includes Program Director Yvonne Kazmierczak, Volunteer Coordinator Mary Thorkildson and Block Nurse Candy Kroll. Their Board Chair is Nona Carl.