



Elderberry Institute eNews

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Network News: Legislative Update

The 2007 annual Day at the Capitol resulted in great success for the LAH/BNP network. 25 out of 40 statewide Programs were represented with 44 total attendees. In addition there were three Elderberry staff members, four EI Board Members and three non-LAH/BNP speakers in attendance.

The LAH/BNP House Bill (HF 1170) was introduced on Monday, February 19th. Representative Alice Hausman from St. Paul is the primary author. This was followed by introduction of the bill in the State Senate

(SF 1172) on Friday, February 23rd. Senator Mary Olson from Bemidji is the primary author. The bills call for:

- Increased base dollars for existing base-funded Programs,
- new base dollars for existing non-base-funded Programs,
- new base dollars for future Programs and,
- restoration of \$60,000/year to Elderberry Institute,
- new cost of living adjustments beginning in FY 2009.

The most recent update shows that 22 Representatives have signed on as co-authors in the House and it is likely that there are more to come. Both bills have bi-partisan support. If you would like to know more information about the current bills, please feel free to contact Elderberry. And keep lobbying your district representatives to urge a public hearing and support this bill!

Program Profile: Warren LAH/BNP

In 1997 the Warren Senior Citizens Club together with the City of Warren decided that the implementation of a local Living at Home/Block Nurse Program would be an important addition to their community. Prior census data for Warren, MN showed that the number of elderly citizens was in a fast upward trend. For a small community like Warren (the 2000 census put the population at only 1,678), keeping the elderly residents in their homes is a vital part of community life.

So, after approval by LAH/BNP Inc. and a base grant award of \$20,000/year,

the Warrant LAH/BNP began operating in March of 1998.

In 1999 the Program began nursing services. Today, the Warren Program has grown to offer a wide variety of additional services, programs and events.

In 2000 three annual events began with traditions that still continue today. Every year the LAH/BNP puts on a Winter Dance/Live Band Social, sponsors a season of Senior Free Swimming and participates in the National Depression Screening Day.

This year the Program is offering

four Arthritis classes and one Aquatic class. They also have a contract with ODC and use their vans to take seniors to meals, to visit friends and to shop among other things.

The Warren LAH/BNP is currently run by its original Program Director, Susan Askeland.

Welcome to the Network!

- Mike Mercer - Board Chair, Macalester
- Ann Wilson - Admin Asst, Elderberry

Farewell & Good Luck!

- Susan Rose - Board Chair, Macalester

Important Dates:

- March 8 - Metro, MCCC/CDS Training

Save the Date:

- August 20-22 - Age Odyssey (Duluth)

Elderberry Update: New Employee, Website

Elderberry Institute is pleased to announce the addition of a new staff member. Ann Wilson has joined our office as a part-time Administrative Assistant. Ann will be working closely with other EI staff to assure that accurate and prompt assistance is provided to LAH/BNPs. Keep your eyes open for an e-mail with more information about Ann!

Although the Administrative position has been filled, EI staff is still in the in-

terview process for someone to join our team as a Community Liaison. Please continue to refer possible candidates to our website for the job description and application details.

In other EI news, we urge Programs to visit and become familiar with the new 'Resources' section of our website as we think you will find it helpful to your Program. Additions and changes are made on a regular basis. If you are

part of a grant that we manage, the Resources section includes the new reporting documents for 2007 (some will be posted shortly). Call EI and ask for Laura if you have questions on the website.

*We hope you
had a wonderful
February!*