



Elderberry Institute eNews

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Elderberry Update

Readiness Review

Elderberry is pleased to announce that the final version of our Readiness Review has been approved. We do not have the details of approval yet, but we do know that Elderberry will now be able to apply for Medicaid Certification as a Fiscal Support Entity for Consumer Directed Services. More details will be announced once we have received our formal letter of approval from the MN Department of Human Services.

Website Resources

If your Program is part of a grant that Elderberry manages, all updated reporting documents for 2007 are finally available on our website. Remember that these documents are now available through the "Resources" section of www.elderberry.org.

Database Upgrade

Elderberry is in final discussions to begin the Version 3.4 upgrade of the Elderberry Database System. The upgrade will include new features such as the ability to print notes and ages on Sorting Tool reports as well as many other additions.

We hope to begin the upgrade process at Programs in late May or early June.

Community Liaison

Elderberry is also in the final stages of the interview process for a new Community Liaison. We are aware that many of the LAH/BNPs have been missing this part of Elderberry's support services. Once hired, we'll have the new Liaison out in the field visiting and helping Programs where needed. Elderberry appreciates your patience through this process.

Program Profile: West Mankato/Lincoln Park/Skyline LAH/BNP

Although the city of Mankato welcomed their first Living at Home/Block Nurse Program in 1991, by 1997 elders living in West Mankato and Lincoln Park Neighborhoods were eager to have a Program of their own. The new Program was created to share a boundary with Hilltop Neighbors. In 1998 they were approved for a base funding grant from the State which allowed them to begin services almost immediately.

In efforts to serve as many seniors

as possible, the Program boundaries include three different areas: West Mankato, Lincoln Park (North to the MN River, East to Glenwood, South to the city limits and West to the Blue Earth River) and Skyline (city limits). The 2000 census put the area's population at 20,160 people - 1,563 of which are over the age of 65.

Along the basic LAH/BNP services, the Mankato Programs have really found ways to reach out to the

Welcome to the Network!

- Evelyn Hyland - Board Chair, Hamline
- Cindy Huener - Volunteer Coordinator, Middle River
- Bonnie Duda - Administration, Owatonna
- Scott Nelson - Board Chair, Two Harbors
- Karen Pollesch - Volunteer Coordinator, Macalester
- Susan Michels - Program Director, Silver Bay

Farewell & Good Luck!

- Sharon Spaulding - Volunteer Coordinator, Pine Island
- Susan Frericks - Program Director, Silver Bay
- Dolly Wood - Board Chair, Two Harbors
- Kirsten Cruikshank - Program Director, Two Harbors

Important Dates:

- April 4 - CMCOA, MCCC, VOA, MNRAA Reports DUE
- April 10 - CSG, CDOE, SPICE Reports DUE
- April 16 - MDH Report DUE
- April 25 - DHS Data & Narrative DUE
- April 30 - DHS Financial Report DUE

Log onto the Member's Only side of www.elderberry.org for more detailed deadline information!

Save the Date: August 20-22 - Age Odyssey (Duluth)

Network News: Legislative Update

Good news! Rep. Huntley's draft of the omnibus Health & Human Services bill includes \$1.235 million for LAH/BNPs and Elderberry Institute over the biennium. Although Senator Berglin's draft of the bill does not include money for additional funding for LAH/BNPs, your lobbying efforts are still necessary. Calls to your State Representative & Senator will still be helpful for the effort to get money into the final Conference Committee Bill.

community with information about Arthritis. They've organized a Self-Help Program, an Arthritis Walk, and Exercise Programs.

You should also keep an eye on their website for information about the "2007 Mankato Idol." This is an annual fundraising event that began in 2006 with great success. Visit www.mankatolivingathome.com for more information!