



Elderberry Institute eNews

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Program Profile: Barnesville Area HELPERS

In 2000, the National Census reported a population of 9,762 people in the town of Barnesville, MN. With 1,479 of those people over the age of 65 - many of them war veterans - it is clear why citizens felt the town could benefit from a local program that would serve the needs of their elderly population.

With this in mind, concerned people looked to the nearby Rothsay Program and decided to open their own Living at Home/Block Nurse Program. By January 1, 2000, the Barnesville Area HELPERS Program was established. They chose "HELPERS" with the intention of "Helping Elders Live Proudly Enjoyably Responsibly Safely." By January 1, 2001 the Program had a small staff and a caring Board of 13 people.

Barnesville is located right next to the North Dakota border just along Interstate 94. Today the Program serves any person over the age of 65 who lives within the Barnesville school district boundaries. Their services include many of the basics but they have also offered services such as weekly exercise clinics, loaning of medical equipment, delivering of NAPS food boxes and Meals-on-Wheels.

In the fall of 2006, Sue Praska became their new Program Director. She is helped by Volunteer Coordinator Jan Bauer.

Elderberry Update

Community Liaison

Elderberry is pleased to announce that Christopher Chryssovergis has joined their staff as Community Liaison. EI is very excited to welcome Chris to the network!

Chris is a 2005 graduate of the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. His focus was on Global Public Policy. He has recently been working as a freelance consultant in the Metropolitan Area.

The Community Liaison is the person who is the main source of contact between LAH/BNP staff and the Elderberry office regarding Program issues. We hope that you'll all get to know Chris in a short time. Chris's e-mail

address is:

chryssovergis@elderberry.org

Readiness Review

Elderberry Institute is happy to announce that as of March 27th 2007 we have been certified by the state of Minnesota DHS to provide Fiscal Support Entity (FSE) services for Consumer Directed Services (CDS) in Minnesota.

Elderberry Institute is now able to provide FSE services through all funding streams that offer CDS. You can enroll in CDS if you are on a medical waiver such as Elderly Waiver and Alternative Care, if you are receiving Title III funds for Caregiver Support and Nutrition, or if you choose CDS

Network News: Legislative Update

The Health and Human Services Conference Committees have begun to meet. The Senate Committee is composed of Senators Linda Berglin, Ann Lynch, Tony Lourey, John Doll and Yvonne Prettner Solon. The House Committee is composed of Thomas Huntley, Paul Thissen, Karen Clark, Neva Walder and Jim Abeler.

The Conference Committees have been meeting every day and will do so until roughly the end of this week (May 4th). This is our *last chance* this year to get funding for LAH/BNPs and Elderberry Institute into this bill. Please contact your legislators NOW and urge them to get funding into the House bill. In particular, contact Senator Berglin and Representative Huntley.

Welcome to the Network!

- Angela Budansiek - Volunteer Coordinator, Pine Island
- Tina West - Program Director, Rothsay
- Chris Chryssovergis - Community Liaison, Elderberry

Farewell & Good Luck!

- Pam Iverson - Program Director, Rothsay
- Ann Wilson - Administrative Assistant, Elderberry

Important Dates:

- May 31 - Annual Budget Form (ALL LAH/BNPs)
- May 31 - Numerical Goals (ALL LAH/BNPs)
- May 31 - Non-numerical goals (ALL LAH/BNPs)
- May 31 - DHS Semi-Annual Payment Request (31 LAH/BNPs)

through Private Pay.

When using CDS the elder or their caregiver can choose or design *what* help they need, *when* to receive care, *who* will provide it to them, and *how* much responsibility they want to take with the process. With CDS the consumer can hire people they know, such as their spouse, relatives, neighbors and friends. CDS gives consumers more *flexibility* and more *responsibility* to create, plan, and manage the services they need.

For more information please contact Eleni Messiou at 651-649-0315 or emessiou@elderberry.org