



# Elderberry Institute eNews

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## Network News

### Network Education Sessions Announced

Listed below are the Network Education Sessions that will be put on by Elderberry this year. They were chosen after careful review of the 2006 Assessment/2007 Assistance Needed Survey that was sent to the LAH/BNP network. Although the session topics are confirmed, we urge you to keep your eyes open in case the dates change.

Date	Time	Meeting	Location
TBA	TBA	Database Upgrade Training	Metro/Rural
8/7/07	1-3 PM	Budget Management/Reporting	Detroit Lakes
8/9/07	1-3 PM	Budget Management/Reporting	St. Paul
9/20/07	12-5 PM	Rural All-Site Meeting	Excelsior
9/20/07	6 PM	20 Year Celebration	Excelsior
9/21/07	8-3 PM	Annual All-Site Meeting	Excelsior
11/13/07	1-3 PM	Volunteer Training	Detroit Lakes
11/15/07	1-3 PM	Volunteer Training	St. Paul

### Legislative Update

As most of you already know, the final omnibus Health and Human Services Conference Committee bill that was approved by both the House and Senate did not include any new funding for LAH/BNPs and Elderberry Institute. The House bill included funds for new Programs but the Senate bill did not so ultimately the bill did not include those funds.

Good news is that the existing LAH/BNPs with base funding will receive an increase of roughly 3% per year to cover cost of living increases. The bill was vetoed by the governor on May 8th, re-passed by the legislature on May 21st and we are unsure as to whether it has been signed by the governor yet.

### Welcome to the Network!

- Tao Wen - Admin Summer Intern, Elderberry

### Farewell & Good Luck!

- Paul Gaebe - Board Chair, Pelican Rapids

### Important Dates:

- **Check Reporting Deadlines Sheet at [www.elderberry.org](http://www.elderberry.org) for July due dates!**
- September 20 - Rural All-Site Meeting
- September 20 - 20 Year Celebration
- September 21 - Annual All-Site Meeting



## Elderberry Update

### Administrative Staff

Elderberry recently welcomed Tao Wen to the office. Tao is student at Macalester College set to graduate in 2010. Tao is from Shanghai, China and is spending the summer as a volunteer intern at Elderberry as part of his Freeman Assist Program.

Elderberry also has a new Administrative Assistant set to join the staff on June 11th. Rachel Leiterman is a student at the University of Minnesota and will be working part-time at Elderberry. Rachel will be providing general support but will also be the administrative support person for Consumer Directed Services.

### Program Profile: Granite Falls LAH/BNP

Although it only opened in 2000, the Granite Falls Living at Home/Block Nurse Program has quickly made its presence known in the city of Granite Falls, MN. Located on the far west side of the state, the Granite Falls city limits allow the Program to serve residents of both Yellow Medicine and Chippewa Counties. With a total population of over 3,100 and an over 65 population of roughly 670 people, the Granite Falls LAH/BNP can boast that they served 177 elders in the 2005-06 Fiscal Year. With their numbers growing, so far this FY they've served 168 elders directly and estimate another 250 as additional people served.

Their big numbers are no surprise considering they run monthly blood pressure checks and do a blood sugar check every other month. The Program has over 100 trained volunteers who allow their services to be happen.

Every LAH/BNP tends to have their own special focus. In Granite Falls, they pride themselves on their efforts to not let elders "slip through the cracks." Focusing on real-life issues the Granite Falls LAH/BNP kept 39 of their resident elders from entering nursing homes in the 05-06 FY. They were also the first Program in their area to introduce Mental Health Education focusing on depression in the elderly.

The current Program Director is Mary Ims who is assisted by Volunteer Coordinator Judy Danduran.