



UPDATE

News for Members of the
Milwaukee Aging Consortium

A nonprofit membership organization devoted to improving the lives of older adults by connecting the professionals who serve them

Membership Meeting Series 05-06

2nd Thursday every other month
Washington Park Senior Center
4420 West Vliet Street
Networking: 1:00 - 1:30 pm
Program: 1:30 - 3:00 pm
FREE for member organizations & staff; \$10 nonmembers

November 10

Gadgets, Gizmos & Thing-A-Ma-Bobs: Assistive Technologies

Speaker: Cindy Pichler, MS, CRC, ATP
Assistive Technology Specialist
IndependenceFirst
Sponsors: Trusted Plans
WI Regional Library for the
Blind & Physically Handicapped

January 12

Culture Change

Speakers: Krista Moore, PhD
Mount Mary College
John George
St. John's on the Lake
Marie Wardynski
Franciscan Villa
Sponsors: To be announced
Contact Susan Bence at 414-289-0890

March 9

Hospice: Exploring the Barriers & Enlarging the Boundaries

Speaker: Gayle Hurt, RN, BSHA, MS, CHPN
AseraCare Home Health & Hospice
Sponsors: To be announced
Contact Susan Bence at 414-289-0890

Thank You To Our Generous Supporting Sponsors

50Plus

GENERAL CAPITAL GROUP

Consortium Means Connecting

From Amy Ambrose, Executive Director

The 2005 Networking Conference demonstrated once again the power of convening hundreds of service providers in one spot. In the past three years, this annual event has grown exponentially from 40 exhibitors to 102.

With an audience of over 250, Dr. Zorba Paster, of National Public Radio, taught us all about what it means to be healthy — for ourselves and for our clients. The afternoon viewing of the documentary film *AlmostHome* brought sighs and laughs of recognition, as we followed a year in the life residents and caregivers at St. John's Home on the Lake. (If you missed this viewing, it will air nationally on January 31, 2006 on the PBS series, *Independent Lens*.)

We thank our conference sponsors: Laureate Group, our lead sponsor, as well as Covenant Health Care and VITAS Innovative Hospice. We are also grateful to Cardinal Stritch University for graciously allowing us to use their newly-built conference center and the generous support of the Stritch staff.

The Networking Conference reminds us that the demand for connectivity among service providers has grown. Improvements to this event from year to year are a direct result of what you as members have told us what you would like to see. Help us to continue to measure the impact of our work, and to plan future programs that will wow you. **Go to our web-site www.milwagingconsortium.com and fill out our member survey, today!** The results will be put to immediate use as we plan for 2006.

Member News

Clement Manor has earned the Wisconsin Health Care Association's *2004 Facility of the Year Shining Star Award* for innovation, dedication to continuous improvement and education.

The **Milwaukee County Department on Aging** received the *Livable Community For All Ages Award* from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging in a ceremony in Washington D.C. for its model efforts to make Milwaukee County a more supportive place to live and grow for seniors.

Mark Your Calendar

ISSUES IN AGING BREAKFAST SERIES

Host: Covenant Senior Health Services
Location: St. Joseph Outpatient Center
201 North Mayfair Road
8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

Friday, December 9, 2005
Senior Abuse Law: Sorting Out the Issues

Friday, January 6, 2006
**Our Gubernatorial Candidates:
Where They Stand on Senior Issues**

Welcome New Members!

Better Business Bureau of Wisconsin
Horizon Home Care & Hospice
KBS Construction, Inc.
Life Plan Financial Services
Right at Home
SAGE/Milwaukee
UWM Guild for Lifelong Learning
WI Lutheran Child & Family Services, Inc.
The Zimmerman Design Group
Use Your Medications Wisely, LLC
Zwicker & Associates

Caregiver Matters

November 9th **Best Practices for Caregiver Retention** will focus on local and national strategies for improving the retention of direct care workers in long term care. The symposium includes a keynote by Di Findley, Iowa CareGivers Assn. and several local providers presenting breakout sessions on promising retention strategies they are currently using. The flyer is listed on our website. Call to register for the event.

Info Bytes

The effectiveness of supervisors has been identified as an important component of direct care worker retention, satisfaction and quality improvement.

Do you have middle management Supervisors of Direct Care Workers who may be interested in participating in a Leadership and Supervisory Skills Development Training series? Administrators are invited to join us at 1:00 p.m., 6737 W. Washington (Summit Place) when the evaluator, Dr. Jean Grube will provide a one hour overview about the training series and expectations for participation. Please call Susan Duvall to register for attending this session: 414-289-0890.

Caregiver Retention Project Contact

Susan Duvall, Project Coordinator
sduvall@milwagingconsortium.org 414-289-0890

Policy Matters

Local

In October, following a resolution sponsored by SEIU Local 150, the Health and Human Needs and Finance and Audit Committees passed a wage increase for home care workers under Family Care. Under the wage increase, careworkers and supportive care workers employed with New Health Services and Supportive Homecare Options would receive an increase. Careworkers would receive \$8.00 an hour and supportive care workers \$9.00 an hour. The increase applies only to these two agencies, which fall under a certain category of employment service. The recommendation now goes the full County Board for approval. For more information visit the Milwaukee County Health and Human Needs web-site.

State Legislation

State Assembly Bill AB 539 will revise abuse reporting requirements for individuals aged 18-59. The bill revises terminology, elder abuse reporting provisions, investigation provisions and confidentiality of elder abuse reports and records. The bill also revises definitions of several terms in current law, including the terms of abuse, neglect, and self-neglect. The bill, introduced by Joint Legislative Council was referred to Committee on Aging and Long Term Care in July. A discussion about the bill, what it means for older adults and the professionals who care for their best interest, will take place at the Milwaukee Aging Consortium Issues in Aging Discussion on Friday, December 9, 2005. Watch your e-mail for further details.

Become a Sponsor!

Consortium programs include an array of valuable forums, events and trainings. These activities are not only an excellent way of educating, connecting and providing value for membership, they are also a great way to make your programs known among this diverse and growing network. Call (414) 289-0890 to be a sponsor in 2006.

Upcoming Opportunities

The **Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services** seeks potential partners interested in implementing reform of health care & long-term support for frail elders, adults with developmental disabilities, and adults with physical disabilities funded by the State's Medical Assistance program. December 31, 2005 deadline. Detail: <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/lc/lcare/rfi>.

Info & Resource Board

On October 26th the Wisconsin State Assembly voted (64-30) to pass a bill (AB766) to limit pain and suffering awards in medical liability cases... More information at: http://www.wisconsinmedicalsociety.org/health_news/press_detail.cfm?id=634

The NCCNHR **National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform** provides a wide range of fact sheets including emergency preparedness information at their website www.nursinghomeaction.org.

Medicare Part D — Help is Here Resource Kit: Understanding, Deciding, Choosing, Joining (11178) is available. The kit contains: Focus on "understanding, deciding, choosing, and joining" - includes a "lesson plan" for anyone who will be helping person/people with Medicare understand the new Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage. To download available sections go to: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/tools/materials/medicaretraining/hihresourcekit/default.asp> Partners may order via CMS Partner Center web site at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships/kitordering.asp>

Information to help beneficiaries find the drug coverage that suits their needs is available at www.medicare.gov & its 24-hour toll-free number, 1-800-633-4227. Beneficiaries should make a note of any current drug coverage, their prescription drugs & preferences about pharmacies or additional coverage. Wisconsin Medicare beneficiaries can also get local assistance by calling 1-800-242-1060. A map of the prescription drug plan and Medicare Advantage plan regions www.cms.hhs.gov/medicrereform/mmaregions/ Press releases, fact sheets and other press materials are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/news>.

Family Care Independent Assessment

An independent assessment of the quality and cost-effectiveness of Family Care has been completed by APS Healthcare, on behalf of the State Department of Health and Family Services. This report compares Family Care members' health status, health care costs and long term care costs to those of comparison groups in similar Medicaid services in other parts of the state. The results showed favorable effects of Family Care on both costs and quality. Family care produced better results for members' health and levels of functioning, more visits to primary care physicians and less use of nursing facilities. Estimated monthly savings for the State of Wisconsin for current enrollment levels in all family care counties is \$1.9 million, with the majority of that savings in Milwaukee County. The report is now available at <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/LTCare>.

Milwaukee Aging Consortium

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