

# MCOA News

MCOA 116 Pleasant Street, Room 306, Easthampton MA 01027 tel: 413.527.6425 email: [Janiece@mcoaonline.com](mailto:Janiece@mcoaonline.com)

Notes from the Executive Director: June 2010

**Please Circulate to Your Staff**

## **Enclosed in This Mailing:**

- **Legislative Update: FY11 Budget Update - Next Step Conference Committee**
- **Update on the Blue Cross Billing Error**
- **Senior Employment Information including Training Opportunities**
- **MCOA Property Tax Task Force OpEd**
- **MCOA Briefs including News You Should Use, UpComing Events, Member Request, and Personnel Updates**
- **MCOA's Call for Nominations for MCOA's 2010 Awards**
- **Health Care Reform and You: What Seniors Should Know from AARP**

## **MCOA Membership June 18<sup>th</sup> Topic: Evidence Based Programming**

For the last few years the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, the MA Department of Public Health and MCOA have been focusing on the benefits of **Evidence-Based Programming** for older adults. With any new initiatives there are some successes and some obstacles. EOE, DPH and MCOA want to improve the service delivery network of these valuable programs and we need your input. Whether you have offered one of these programs or not, whether it has been successful or not, we need you to join us on June 18<sup>th</sup> to offer your opinions on this endeavor. Please make every effort to have your COA represented. **Join us June 18<sup>th</sup> at 10am at the Milford COA. Details and the reservation form are contain within the newsletter.**

## **FY11 MCOA Dues will be the same as FY10:**

**MCOA can arrange early payment of dues and Fall Conference Registration for Members.** Contact Janiece Leach for 'early billing'

Tel: 413.527.6425 [janiece@mcoaonline.com](mailto:janiece@mcoaonline.com)

**The Spring 2010 edition of *Focal Points*** is in the mail and every member COA will receive 5 hard copies to distribute within your town. We suggest you hand deliver them to Board Chair, Mayor/Town Council, Select Board/City Council, and Finance Committee. State Legislature and member so the Administration as well as other elder advocacy organization will receive their own copy by mail. MCOA also requests that you mention in your next local COA newspaper of its availability online for everyone to read at [www.mcoaonline.com](http://www.mcoaonline.com)

**The latest editions of MCOA Publications can be found at [www.mcoaonline.com](http://www.mcoaonline.com)**

- MCOA Briefs is posted weekly at noon on Friday
- MCOA News, our monthly newsletter, is posted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month
- Focal Points, our biannual monthly magazine, is posted by April 15<sup>th</sup> and Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>

**Hard Copies can be mailed upon request. We ask local COAs to publish these dates and our link in their local newsletters.**

## MCOA Legislative Alert: Budget Goes to Conference Committee with \$7/elder/YEAR Formula Grant BUT

Governor Patrick, the House and the Senate all have agreed upon the \$7/elder/YEAR Formula Grant and each should be thanked profusely. The only differences in their three versions are how much money is available for the Service Incentive Grant Program. The Senate and House versions now go to a “Conference Committee” where the differences will be settled. Generally the Senate version is more favorable to “Elder Services”.

### **FY11 Line Item #9110-9002 - Local Aid to Councils on Aging. A \$8.1M minimum allows for \$7/elder/YEAR**

FY09 GAA	FY09 Post 9c Cuts	Governor’s Proposal	House Final Version	Senate Final Version
\$8,615,068	\$8,115,068	\$8,115,068	\$8,215,068	\$8,315,068

**\$7/elder/YEAR is the budgetary figure that you should be planning for as you prepare for FY11, with three significant caveats to monitor.**

1. As detailed below in the two articles from State House News, the Governor, the House and the Senate all relied on additional ARA (stimulus) funding thru FMAP (Medicaid Program) ranging from \$600-\$700 million to balance their FY11 Budget Proposals. Thirty-eight states are counting on these funds to balance their budgets. A vote last week by the US House called into question the reliability of that funding source. If that funding source is not forthcoming our state’s FY11 budget would need to be reduced. Of our \$27 billion state budget, \$700 million is about 2.6%. If the cuts are fairly enacted across the board, the Formula Grant could be reduced by \$0.20/elder/ or less= \$6.80. See articles below. **Today’s Outlook:** Compromise will be reached and funding will be available to States -remember it is an election year- BUT stay tuned!

2. Each version of the budget proposes different revenue sources and depending on the final ‘conferenced’ version additional or reduced funding is possible. **Today’s Outlook:** Final for Line Item #9110-9002 will be \$8.2m = \$7/elder with \$100,000 extra for Incentive.

3. Revenue Projections for FY11 remain within original parameters but any significant bubble could alter the outlook and may indicate the need for mid-year 9c cuts. The BP Gulf crisis is one example of how external factors could affect the economy. At \$8.1M (the lowest of the 3 versions) we have no room to ‘give back’ without reducing the Formula Grant midyear. **Today’s Outlook:** Small/Slim Chance for 9c cuts in FY11

**Bottom Line: I repeat, that I would budget on \$7/elder but keep a healthy reserve as our state continues to climb out of this recession. There might be an unforeseen setback. DPS**

## STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

### CONGRESS THREATENING NEARLY \$700 MIL IN STATE AID - EXCERPTS

By Jim O’Sullivan STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, JUNE 2, 2010.....Reliance by the Patrick administration and the Democrat-controlled House and Senate on nearly \$700 million in additional federal health care funds has grown into a riskier proposition, as Congress balks at extending the funding, potentially ripping a major hole in the state’s fiscal 2011 budget just as legislative conferees begin to work out differences in their proposals.

If the federal aid, excised by the U.S. House of Representatives last week, is not authorized, state budget writers would likely have to turn to more aggressive cost-cutting or turn again to the dwindling pot of state reserves.

“It’s obviously not going to come without a fight. But I still think that it’s so important ... At the end of the day, I still think it’s going to pass. I just don’t think it’s going to happen quickly,” said House Ways and Means Committee vice-chair Barbara L’Italien. “I’ve always been concerned about it,” said L’Italien (D-Andover).

## **MCOA Legislative Alert: Budget Goes to Conference Committee *continued***

Aides to Gov. Deval Patrick have reassured lawmakers for months that the funding was a near certainty, since Patrick included \$608 million from an anticipated six-month extension to the Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP) program in his spending blueprint for the fiscal year that begins July 1. The House followed suit and the Senate ramped its accounting over \$680 million, calculating that the state's unemployment rate would dictate a higher pay-out from Washington.

Budget authors in both chambers have acknowledged that they would likely have to impose deeper spending cuts if the aid does not materialize.

"We'd have to cut that money back out of our budget," L'Italien said. Asked where the state would look to cut, she replied, "That's a good question."

States have been pushing Congress to find another vehicle for the funding, and U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi sounded a note of optimism Tuesday that the House would tackle the Medicaid and unemployed health benefits spending after it returns from recess next week.

Massachusetts House Budget Chief Charles Murphy told the News Service, "Was it a risk going down that road? Absolutely it was risk. But, again, we feel confident that it's going to come through."

Asked if the Patrick administration were drafting contingency plans in case the funds don't come through, Health and Human Services Secretary JudyAnn Bigby told the News Service, "We're following this very closely." Bigby said 38 other states could face funding cuts and expressed hope that Congress would approve the funds. "I think they want to do it and they're trying to figure out the cost," she said.

The funding, tied to Medicaid, expires in December, leaving a six-month gap in the end of the state's next fiscal year. The U.S. House last Thursday dropped the extension from the federal jobs bill. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, Massachusetts is among 30 states that budgeted for 2010-11 with FMAP money in mind. Only nine states included contingency plans if the cash does not arrive.

### **PANAGIOTAKOS WARNS OF CUTS 'EVERYWHERE' IF FEDS DON'T DELIVER - EXCERPTS**

By Jim O'Sullivan STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, JUNE 2, 2010.....The state would need to impose across-the-board cuts into next fiscal year's budget if Congress does not authorize nearly \$700 million in additional funding within the next two weeks, top Senate budget writer Steven Panagiotakos said Wednesday.

The jeopardy of the Medicaid funding, which top lawmakers discussed with Gov. Deval Patrick in a closed-door meeting Tuesday after the U.S. House excised the \$25 billion national program from a jobs bill last week, imperils non-recurring revenues both the administration, the House and the Senate had banked on to close what Senate officials called a \$2.85 billion gap.

Panagiotakos said the state would have to slice \$689 million out of the \$28.04 billion fiscal 2011 spending plan, calling further dips into state reserves unwise with the looming possibility that recession-driven caseload demands could force budget crafters to delve into savings to balance the books on the fiscal year that ends June 30. "We would have to make cuts in the amount that we have estimated for the [Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage]," said Panagiotakos. "If you're going to cut \$700 million more, the cuts are going to come from everywhere," the Lowell Democrat said. Asked if the reductions would include assistance to cities and towns, he replied, "Everywhere."

With 28 days left until the new fiscal year, the House and Senate have not formally launched the conference committee that will determine the final appropriations bill that lands on Patrick's desk. Both Panagiotakos and Murphy have said they are intent on delivering a budget on time for the start of the fiscal year.

May tax collection figures are due Thursday and, due to an income tax filing deadline delayed by this year's floods, contain a heavier-than-usual batch of data. Slips in revenues could force the state to tap savings to wash away red ink from this fiscal year. Revenue department officials said tax collections through April showed signs of economic recovery.

"We're probably right at balance, so any further decline or deterioration in revenues from what we estimated, that's the only way to close the books is to use the rainy day account to do that," Panagiotakos said.

"We might have the same problem next year," he said. -END- 06/02/2010

## **MCOA Briefs: News You Should Use - 2009 Blue Cross Billing Error UPDATE**

FYI- As you know, last year Prescription Advantage enrollees in a BCBS Part D product were not billed for a differential in the benchmark amount. Some enrollees were billed and should not have been and some were never billed. BCBS is required to attempt to collect the amount owed to them. Below please find an update from Cindy Phillips, SHINE, on how these enrollees will be impacted.

Special thanks to Diane Paulson for following up on this matter and getting clarity about the process going forward. — Jessica Costantino, AARP Advocacy Director

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From: Phillips, Cynthia (ELD)

Subject: BCBS bills for PA members

The Medicare Beneficiary Work group met today and CMS staff Arlene DiSalvo reported that after months of work between CMS and BCBS, there is a resolution to this problem.

About 5800 Massachusetts members had help from PA last year to pay their Blue Medicare RX PDP premiums up to the benchmark amount. BCBS, due to a systems glitch did not bill the members for the remaining amount above the benchmark that they owed. By law, BCBS is required to attempt to collect that remaining amount owed them. A letter and bill recently went out explaining the problem apprising the members of the amount owed (which includes the 2010 premiums). A payment plan is proposed.

Members are advised to call Blue Cross with questions. Arlene says: if they call Blue Cross the bill will be "adjusted", if they pay Blue Cross, the amount will be credited to future premiums. If they ignore the letter, there will be no ramifications.

Basically no one is harmed by this action. Bottom line, please advise people to call Blue Cross.

Thanks and have a nice weekend! — Cindy Phillips, SHINE



### ***2009 Blue Cross Part D Premium Billing Error***

Blue Cross and Blue Shield discovered an error with their 2009 Part D premium billing. This error affected Prescription Advantage members in the S1, S2 and S3 categories who were enrolled in the Blue Cross stand-alone Part D plans during 2009. This error resulted in both over billing and under billing members.

Adjustments have been made to member accounts and will be reflected in the April 2010 premium invoice scheduled to be mailed by May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Approximately 5000 Prescription Advantage members in Blue MedicareRx (S2983) will receive an invoice reflecting the 2009 additional premium amount that they were not billed for in 2009 and another 750 members will receive an invoice reflecting a credit balance. In addition, there are 100 members who are no longer enrolled in a Blue MedicareRx plan and they will be issued a refund check within approximately 30 days of the April invoice mailing

Although a letter of explanation will accompany the bills and refund checks, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts/Blue MedicareRx recognizes that there may still be some confusion. Members should be encouraged to call Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts/Blue MedicareRx directly for a more detailed explanation.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts/Blue MedicareRx Customer Service can be reached at: 1-888-543-4917. TTY/TDD should call 1-866-236-1069.

## MCOA News You Can Use: continued

### Medicare & The New Health Care Law

Subject: Medicare Update: Medicare & The New Health Care Law – What it Means for You – Many Medicare Beneficiaries to receive \$250 check

Medicare beneficiaries will soon receive information in the mail about the immediate benefits they may see from the new the Affordable Care Act. The first benefit that several million Medicare beneficiaries will receive is a one-time check for \$250, if they enter the Part D donut hole and are not eligible for Medicare Extra Help. The donut hole, or coverage gap, is the period in the prescription drug benefit in which a beneficiary pays 100 percent of the cost of their drugs until they hit the catastrophic coverage. Next year, all beneficiaries who enter the gap will get a 50 percent discount for covered brand name Part D drugs. Also beginning next year, Medicare beneficiaries will get preventive care services like colorectal cancer screening and mammograms without cost-sharing, in addition to an annual wellness visit. A fact sheet about Medicare and the new health care law is available in English and Spanish.

This information has recently been updated, and can be read by visiting this link:

[http://www.disability.gov/health/health\\_insurance/medicare](http://www.disability.gov/health/health_insurance/medicare)

Paul J. Lanzikos, Executive Director, North Shore Elder Services, 152 Sylvan Street, Danvers, MA 01923-3568  
978/624-2245 — 978/624-2244 (TTY)

### Donut Hole \$250 Check Scam

Please know that “Any Medicare beneficiary who reaches the donut hole is automatically eligible to receive a rebate of \$250. The elder’s drug plan will contact CMS directly when this threshold is reached; CMS will issue the \$250 check directly to the senior during the next quarter. **There is NO application process; there are NO phone calls associated with the issuance of this check!** Any contact/s, or attempted contacts, should be immediately reported to CMS (1-800-MEDICARE; 1-800-633-4227) and local police. COA staff may feel free to contact their SHINE counselor if you have any question/concern re: this email. Thank you.

### CDC Healthy Aging Site

The U.S. National Centers for Disease Control has an excellent Healthy Aging site.

See: <http://www.cdc.gov/aging/> Courtesy Emmett Schmarsow, EOEA

### U.S. Health & Human Services Guide

**Taking Care of Myself: A Guide for When I Leave the Hospital** — a guide for patients to help them care for themselves when they leave the hospital. — Courtesy Linn Morrill, MDPH

See: <http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/goinghomeguide.htm>

### Unemployment Assistance- Message from Emmett Schmarsow/EOEA

As you may be aware, effective **Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup>**, a large number of unemployment claimants within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will begin to exhaust their unemployment insurance benefits. The Division of Unemployment Assistance will send a letter to unemployment insurance claimants projected to exhaust benefits within 30 days and include information on basic support services and community resources. As a result of this letter, you may anticipate inquiries from older adults seeking assistance.

Please know that prior to Friday, June 4th, Elder Affairs will forward you a messaging document and materials outlining statewide resources on how to better assist people.

Thank you in advance for your support and consideration.

In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding this email, please feel free to contact Colleen McHatton of this office at 617-222-7417.

## **MCOA News You Can Use: continued**

### **Employment Assistance from Emmett Schmarsow & Mary Kay Browne/ EOE**

**The Wisdom Works Job Search Skills Training** is an opportunity for seniors and others to learn the skills needed to seek employment in today's internet-driven approach to hiring. This program embraces the increasing role of senior centers as a resource to/for the community.

Please review the attached announcement regarding the "Wisdom Works" Program. For further information, you can contact Mary Kay Brown at the e-address indicated in the attachment.

#### **Program Announcement**

#### **New Sites Invited to Adopt the Wisdom Works Job Search Skills Training Program**

#### **2010 Training Schedule**

The Wisdom Works Job Search Skills Training is an opportunity for older adults to learn the new and essential job search skills required for employment in today's internet-based approach to hiring.

Currently there are five COA sites offering the program in Massachusetts – Billerica, Duxbury, Marblehead (program founder), Natick, and Newton. The next round for program expansion begins this June and will culminate with a training session for the Wisdom Works volunteer workshop leaders (ideally HR professionals) on August 20, 2010 (locations to be announced). COAs that are ready to adopt the program should **register by June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010** by emailing Mary Kay Browne, Senior Project Director, at [mary.k.browne@state.ma.us](mailto:mary.k.browne@state.ma.us). Please include your name, address, phone number and email address.

In June, all newly registered sites will receive an operations manual for this simple-to-operate program. The manual includes a program profile, management tips, an activity timeline, sample press releases for recruitment of participants and a sample letter used to recruit volunteer HR professionals to be Wisdom Works workshop trainers. During the intervening weeks between the registration deadline (June 11<sup>th</sup>) and the training day (August 20<sup>th</sup>), new sites will focus on recruiting workshop leaders (2-4 per site) and program participants.

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FYI: Please know that a third program offering for COAs will occur this fall, culminating with a November training (dates and locations to be determined). You may anticipate an announcement in August regarding registration for the November training program. Thank you for your interest.

## 2010 AARP Webinar Series for Job Seekers

AARP is offering webinars throughout 2010 to help you succeed in your job search. To register for the next webinar, learn about upcoming ones, or view a recording of a past webinar, visit [www.aarp.org/jobwebinars](http://www.aarp.org/jobwebinars). Registrations fill up quickly!

### Refresh Your Resume for Today's Job Market

Thursday, June 17, 2:00-3:00 pm EDT

If your resume is not getting the attention you want, it may be time to take a new look. This webinar shows you how to update and sharpen your resume so that it stands out in a crowd, which is hard to do in today's job market. Learn how to:

- Choose the right resume for the job
- Focus on accomplishments rather than job duties
- Deal with age, dates and employment gaps

Presenters:

- Susan Ireland, author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Perfect Resume*; resume expert on Job-Hunt.org and through her own web site
- Beth Brown, senior resume writer on Susan Ireland's Resume Team

### Promote Yourself With a Personal Brand

Tuesday, September 14, 2:00-3:00 pm EDT

What makes you unique among your peers? What have you achieved that makes you a valuable asset to an employer? Whether you are a career-changer, an entrepreneur, or simply need a new approach in your job search, a personal brand will help you define the product that is *you*.

This webinar explains how to apply commercial branding techniques to find a job or build your business. You'll learn to:

- Identify your unique strengths and skills
- Increase your visibility in a competitive market
- Show your value to potential employers

Presenter:

Marva Goldsmith, author of *Branding Yourself After Age 50*, is a branding & image consultant based in Washington, DC.

### Hot Jobs: Where They Are and How to Find Them

December 9, 2:00-3:00 pm EST

At this AARP members-only webinar, employment experts will help you find out which industries, occupations, and types of employers have the most job openings (and which don't). Learn how to use your arsenal of job hunting skills to latch onto more possibilities for getting hired. Information includes:

- Tips for using job boards—and mistakes to avoid
- Using social networks to find job prospects
- Matching your qualifications to available jobs

Presenters:

- Melanie Holmes, Vice President, World of Work Solutions, Manpower, Inc.
- Katharine Hansen, career expert and Creative Director for QuintCareers.com.

### Networking 2010: Make Connections to Find a Job

Recorded Webinar from March 24, 2010

Most job seekers know that networking is important, but many are unsure of where to start or how to do it effectively. Successful networkers use a combination of in-person and online approaches to build relationships and find a job. Attend this webinar to learn:

- Practical tips to expand your personal network, make new contacts, and reactivate old ones
- Step-by-step guidance for using the major online social networks (LinkedIn, Twitter and FaceBook) as part of your job search

Presenters:

- Susan Joyce, Editor and Publisher of the award-winning web site, Job-Hunt.org
- Dave Peck, New Media Strategist for LSF Interactive, San Francisco

Learn more at [www.aarp.org/jobwebinar](http://www.aarp.org/jobwebinar)

## MCOA News You Can Use: continued

### OP-ED: Flood Relief and Help with Rising Tides for Seniors

Pat Carty-Larkin, Norma Simons Fitzgerald, and Laura Henze Russell

FEMA's walk-in Disaster Recovery Centers where residents can apply for low-cost loans and other help to clean up after the floods are closing, but FEMA will continue to accept flood claims until the end of June. Older adults in Massachusetts who were hit by flooding, or by another rising tide of living costs – heat and utilities, medical and prescription bills, home care, property taxes and/or rents – have more places to turn for help: *follow the ABC's*.

**Abatement:** Homeowners can file for an abatement – a reduction in assessed value - *if they think their home is assessed at over its market value*. Inviting an assessor into your house can result in lower taxes, especially if you have white or avocado instead of stainless steel appliances, and don't have granite countertops, a Jacuzzi, or other high-end amenities.

**Circuit Breaker:** Most senior renters and homeowners Massachusetts - except the wealthy and those with public housing or a rent subsidy – qualify for the MA Income Tax Senior Circuit Breaker Credit, with a maximum of up to \$960 in 2009. *Seniors can get the credit - even if they don't have enough income to owe or pay state income taxes in MA - as a rebate when property taxes, or the 25 percent of rent that covers property taxes, exceeds 10 percent of their income*. Qualifying seniors can still back file for 2007 and 2008 and *get up to \$2,790 for three years if they qualify for the maximum*. 69,942 seniors filed in 2008 - yet many times that amount are eligible. Filers in MA 14 largest cities range from *Boston 2,457 and Quincy 1,457, to Fall River 374 and Lawrence 215*.

**Deferral:** *The deferral program is the state's "best kept secret" for seniors in Massachusetts. Seniors can ask to defer – put off paying until the property is sold or transferred – all or part of their property tax bill each year, until the amount plus interest equals half of assessed value*. The interest rate varies by local option up to 8 percent – better than any credit card or installment loan. The deferral starts as savings of a few thousand dollars in the first year, and can conserve enough cash to cover major bills over many years – and avoid going into more costly debt. Income limits vary – it can be \$20,000, \$40,000, or \$51,000 - and age limits from 65 to 70 by local option. *Fewer than 1,250 MA seniors applied for the property tax deferral in FY2009 – none in Springfield, 6 in Worcester, 12 in Framingham, 13 in Boston, 30 in Lynn, 50 in Quincy, and 64 in Newton*. A municipal lien is filed, like the lien every day except the day you pay your property taxes, and better than a mortgage or reverse mortgage lien. If you don't want to leave your house to your children with a lien on it, ask for their help to pay your property taxes.

**Exemption:** The local assessor can also give information on the *senior property tax exemption, which ranges from \$500 to \$1,000 - as much as \$2,000 if the town elects to double all of its exemptions* - by local option. There are also exemptions for homeowners who are *veterans, blind, disabled, widowed, or face hardship*.

**Work-off Program:** About one-third of Massachusetts communities have a *senior property tax work-off program, in which seniors volunteer with a town department and get a property tax credit based on a minimum wage stipend of \$500, \$750 or \$1,000 by local option*. Call your Council on Aging or assessor about this program.

**The Need:** *The Census Bureau's Supplemental Poverty Measure finds that 18 percent older adults 65+ don't have enough income to cover living costs today – twice the official poverty rate of 9 percent among seniors – after taking into account higher medical costs, regional cost differences, and fewer help programs than for younger families*. The Elder Economic Security Standard shows that seniors in no county in Massachusetts can live on the average Social Security payment, maximum Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment, or federal poverty guidelines.

**Next Steps:** Massachusetts Councils on Aging Property Tax Task Force, whose members include directors of councils on aging, assessors, and volunteers, works to broaden awareness, increase usage, and improve these programs. *File sharing among the Department of Revenue and municipalities, as in New Jersey, New York, and other states, can result in the Circuit Breaker credit being automatically offset as a deduction in the local property tax bill*. *Funded outreach - like for the Earned Income Tax Credit - is needed to reach more seniors having difficulty paying their bills and going deeper into debt*. *Please spread the word about these programs, and help your family, friend or neighbor face the rising tides ahead*.

Pat Carty-Larkin and Norma Simons Fitzgerald are co-chairs of *Massachusetts Councils on Aging Property Tax Task Force*. *Laura Henze Russell is a volunteer member and author of, "Lifelines for Elders Living on Edge: How Elder Support Programs Compare to Living Costs."*

## MCOA Briefs: Job Opportunity

### South County Senior Center Senior Center Director- Franklin County

The South County Senior Center, located in South Deerfield and serving the towns of Deerfield, Sunderland and Whately is seeking a Director. Bachelor's degree in gerontology, social work or related field preferred. Will consider related experience along with a bachelor's degree in an unrelated field. Candidates should demonstrate familiarity with elder and aging issues, grant writing, and be computer proficient. Applicants must have a valid driver's license and a reliable vehicle. The successful applicant must be certified in CPR and Basic First Aid within the first six month of employment. Pre-employment drug testing and a CORI check are required. This is a part time position, twenty-five hours per week, salary negotiable. Job description is posted on [www.whately.org](http://www.whately.org) or obtained at the Selectmen's Office in the Town of Whately. AA/EEO employer  
Send cover letter and resume to: Senior Center Director c/o Whately Selectmen's Office, 218 Chestnut Plain Road, P. O. Box 181, Whately, MA 01093. Applications must be received by 12:00 PM, June 11, 2010.

### COUNCIL ON AGING DIRECTOR TOWN OF KINGSTON

The Town of Kingston (pop. 12,183) seeks qualified candidates for the position of Council on Aging Director. Works under the administrative direction of the Town Administrator and the policy direction of the Council on Aging Board. Performs varied, complex and responsible professional duties requiring the exercise of initiative and considerable independent judgment. Establishes short-long range plans and objectives and assumes direct accountability for results. Performs highly responsible duties in managing the department and budget, conducting service programs, supervising employees and addressing the needs of the elderly. Directs the daily operations of the Council on Aging department. Construction of a New Council on Aging/Senior Center set to begin in June and opening in early Spring 2011. Bachelor's Degree in human services or related field; three years of progressively responsible experience in the assessment and evaluation of elder client needs, senior programs and development and grant writing. Supervisory experience desirable; or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Master's degree preferred. Working knowledge of computer systems and MS Office, electronic distribution of documents and emails. Salary range is \$37,389-\$50,194 with excellent fringe benefits. Detailed job description is available at [www.kingstonmass.org](http://www.kingstonmass.org).  
Position open until suitable candidate chosen; anticipated appointment in July 2010. Please send resume, letter of interest, three (3) professional references to Jill Myers, Town Administrator, 26 Evergreen Street, Kingston, MA 02364 or email to [jmyers@kingstonmass.org](mailto:jmyers@kingstonmass.org). AA/EOE

## MCOA Briefs: Personnel Update

### Welcome New Directors

- Jack Gracey, has replaced Amy Loveless at the Marlborough COA, [jgracey@marlborough-ma.gov](mailto:jgracey@marlborough-ma.gov)
- Susan Carp, has replaced Trudy Reid at the Wenham COA, [coa@wenhamma.gov](mailto:coa@wenhamma.gov)
- Vincent Marinaro has replaced Jean Beauchemin at the Pittsfield COA
- Diane Durawa ([dvdmv@hotmail.com](mailto:dvdmv@hotmail.com)) has joined Laurie Schreiber at the Edgartown COA

### Not Reappointed

- Muriel Boyce will no longer be director in Kingston as of June 30, 2010.

### *We are collecting info on any cuts...*

**SAVE OUR Senior Centers Task Force:** Is actively tracking the impact the FY09 budget on senior centers and staffing. Please send updates and your concerns to Ruthann Dobek/Brookline — [Ruthann\\_Dobek@town.brookline.ma.us](mailto:Ruthann_Dobek@town.brookline.ma.us) and Jayne Colino/Newton — [jcolino@newtonma.gov](mailto:jcolino@newtonma.gov) We also need a copy sent to [Peter@mcoaoonline.com](mailto:Peter@mcoaoonline.com)

## **MCOA Briefs: Upcoming Events**

### **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**

#### **GRANDS (Grandparents Raising Grandchildren) Educational Workshop Series**

Thursday 3 June, Wednesday 9 June, Wednesday 23 June, Wednesday 7 July

Announcement Flyer: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/conferences/index.php>

### **Aging With Dignity Conference in June**

THE AGING WITH DIGNITY CONFERENCE: **Tuesday 8 June 2010**

#### **Preventing and Responding to Substance Use Problems Among Older People**

A conference for health and human service professionals. College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA0.

Registration brochure will be mailed six weeks before the conference. If you would like additional information, please contact AdCare Educational Institute, Inc. at 508-752-7313; TTY: 508-754-0039

### **Health Care Reform: What's Next?**

#### **Health Care Reform: What Happened? What's Next?**

Thursday 17 June 2010, 6-7 PM Light Refreshments, 7-9 PM Panel Discussion

Brookline Senior Center, 93 Winchester Street, Brookline MA

Event flyer: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/conferences/index.php>

### **MAOA Aging & Mental Health Conferences**

MAOA is excited to share brochures and registration for two upcoming Aging and Mental Health Conferences: Susan Kasle, MPH, Mental Health Program Director, MA Association of Older Americans — (617) 426-0804

**June 18<sup>th</sup> (Fri)**, Pittsfield MA — Aging in the New Age: Mental Wellness in the Era of the Boomers

**June 30<sup>th</sup> (Wed)**, Worcester MA — The Body/Mind Connection: Brain Health

Brochure: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/conferences/index.php>

### **It Takes More than Ramps**

Accessible Health Care: It Takes More than Ramps — An all-day conference for practice managers, hospital administrators, ADA coordinators, facility managers, and health care practitioners

**Tuesday, June 22, 2010** — 9:00 am - 4:00 pm — Shrewsbury MA

Event Flyer: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/conferences/index.php>

### **SAVE THE DATE Mass Home Care's 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting** Monday, June 21, 2010

11:30 am Luncheon At the Burlington Marriott Keynote Speaker Michael J. Widmer, President Mass

Taxpayer's Foundation. Info contact [info@masshomecare.org](mailto:info@masshomecare.org)

### **Prescription Drugs: Good, Bad, Ugly**

You are invited to the BSAS: (#241) Prescription Drugs: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly scheduled on **Tuesday, June 29, 2010**. Registration Fee: \$50 payable to AdCare Educational Institute, Inc.

Mail payment to: 5 Northampton Street, Worcester, MA 01605

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, June 23, 2010 (or when the workshop reaches capacity)

Continuing Education Credits: 5.50 Location: Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center

Address: 181 Boston Post Road West, Marlborough, MA 01721 Phone: (508) 460-0700

If you have any questions, please contact me. Marion Clark-Jalbert, Training Coordinator, AdCare Educational Institute, Inc., [Marion@adcare-educational.org](mailto:Marion@adcare-educational.org) — 508.752.7313

### **Save the Date! Mass Senior Care Association**

**4<sup>th</sup> Annual Falls Prevention Awareness Day** September 22, 2010 10:00am-12:00pm

Massachusetts State House **Join us in the Nurses Hall at the State House as we celebrate our ongoing efforts and plan for the year to come!** A more detailed announcement will be sent later this summer.

# THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY FORUM

Presented by the *Friends of Brookline Public Health and Brookline Adult & Community Education*

## Health Care Reform: What Happened? What's Next?

Moderated by former Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis



### PANELISTS:

**Marcia Angell**, Senior Lecturer, Department of Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School

**Jonathan Gruber**, Professor of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Amy Whitcomb Slemmer**, Executive Director, Health Care for All

**Thursday, June 17, 2010**

6 – 7 PM Light Refreshments

7 – 9 PM Panel Discussion

**Brookline Senior Center, 93 Winchester Street, Brookline**

This forum is free and open to the public. Registration is not required. Please call the Brookline Department of Public Health at 617-730-2300 or visit [www.brooklineadulted.org](http://www.brooklineadulted.org) if you have any questions.

Co-sponsored by the *Brookline Department of Public Health, the Brookline Council on Aging, Brookline Community Mental Health Center, the Brookline Human Relations Youth Resources Commission, League of Women Voters of Brookline, Brookline Commission for Women, and the Brookline Department of Veterans Services.*

TUFTS  Health Plan  
No one does more to keep you healthy.

## **MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiries/Requests**

### **Telephone Reassurance Programs ?**

Will you please email me back if your city/town currently has a telephone reassurance program for seniors (i.e., RUOK, IMOK, DSC care, Blackboard Connect, Everbridge, etc.)? Thanks, Dawn

Dawn Folopoulos, Elder/Human Services Administrator, Town of Reading ~ 16 Lowell Street ~ Reading, MA 01867 — Phone: 781-942-6658 ~ Fax: 781-942-9071

### **PT Outreach Worker job description?**

I am looking for a job description for a part-time outreach worker, as well as salary levels. Please email Marcia Cairns, West Boylston Council on Aging at [mcairns@westboylston-ma.gov](mailto:mcairns@westboylston-ma.gov) Thanks,

Marcia Cairns, RN, BSN, Director, West Boylston Council on Aging, 127 Hartwell St. Suite 100, West Boylston MA 01583 — 508-835-6916 — fax; 508-835-3486

### **Elderly/Disabled Tax Relief applications**

Westford COA is looking for copies of Tax Relief for Elderly and Disabled tax relief applications that other communities may use? They may be emailed to [jsheehan@westfordma.gov](mailto:jsheehan@westfordma.gov) or faxed to Joanne at 978 392-4992. Thank you, Joanne Sheehan, Director, Westford COA

### **Feasibility Studies for Senior/ Community Centers**

The Lincoln COA hopes to issue an RFP for a feasibility study to look at programming and related space needs, and siting as a first step to acquiring more adequate space. If you have issued an RFP for similar services, could you please forward a copy to [bottum@lincolntown.org](mailto:bottum@lincolntown.org) ? We are especially interested in seeing your Scope of Service and the estimated cost of the study. Thank you!

Carolyn Bottum, Director, Lincoln COA

### **Telephone Reassurance Program**

Will you please email me back if your city/town currently has a telephone reassurance program for seniors (i.e. RUOK, IMOK, DSC care, Blackboard Connect, Everbridge, etc.)?

Dawn Folopoulos, Elder/Human Services Administrator

Town of Reading ~ 16 Lowell Street ~ Reading, MA 01867

Phone: 781-942-6658 ~ Fax: 781-942-9071

Please consider the environment and don't print this e-mail unless you must.

### **Van Usage- Third Party Reimbursements**

We have a sudden surge in chairvan usage and a corresponding surge in cost. Has any COA center found a way to get reimbursed from Medicare or any other insurance carrier or state or federal agency?

Gerald Ryan email: [paxtoncoa@townofpax](mailto:paxtoncoa@townofpax)

### **Foot Care**

I will be in need of replacing our current Foot Nurse and I was wondering if there is a "policy" as far as EOEA is concerned as to whether the person need to be an actual nurse. If the provider is insured and licensed can I use a nail tech who is reputable?

Ann M. Guenette, Senior Services Director Granby Council on Aging (413) 467-3239 [anng@granbyma.org](mailto:anng@granbyma.org)

### **Interdepartmental Reorganization**

The director of the Amherst COA wishes to know if your agency has been part of an interdepartmental merger or reorganization, and how your agency fared as a result of the transition. The Town Manager in Amherst proposed to merge Leisure Services, Health and Senior Center depts. into one Community Services Dept under one (non-human service) director. Nancy Hirsh Pagano, Director, Amherst Senior Center. Email:

[paganon@amherstma.gov](mailto:paganon@amherstma.gov) Phone: 413-259-3114 Fax: 413-259-2413

# MCOA Awards 2010

## A Call for Nominations

Submit your nomination and any supplemental material by September 3, 2010

- Nominate someone from a COA/Senior Center  
**MCOA Director of the Year,**  
whom you feel achieves, articulates, brings together, exemplifies leadership in the field of aging as well as in senior center development, operations, and marketing.
- Nominate an individual or group for  
**MCOA Advocate of the Year,**  
whom you feel by the way of message, achievement, legislation, coalition-building, speaking up for seniors, helping seniors to speak up, courage, patience, and persistence has helped seniors find empowerment, enrichment and fulfillment. P.S. When appropriate this award can be referred to as the MCOA Legislative Advocate of the Year Award.
- Nominate an individual or group for  
**MCOA Innovator of the Year Award,**  
whom you feel has come up with an idea or design, invention or variation, a program, a service or a model that might help senior centers serve seniors and their families according to need, compatible with dreams and adaptable to other communities.

### **Submit by September 3, 2010**

Be sure to include this basic information below and augment as you see necessary.

## **MCOA 2010 Awards Nomination Form**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_

nominate \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ for the MCOA

\_\_\_\_\_ of the year Award. I believe he/she/they deserve(s) this award because:

Supplement this application with any appropriate materials you deem necessary, including a one-page summary of why this individual or organization should be considered for the award you have specified.

Mail nomination to: MCOA, 116 Pleasant Street, Room 306, Easthampton MA 01027, Fax to 413.527.7138 or email to [david@mcoaonline.com](mailto:david@mcoaonline.com) Thank you for you time with this matter.

**Reservation Due June 15, 2010**

Reservation Due June 15, 2010

**MCOA**  
**Membership Meeting**  
**June 18, 2010 at the Milford's Senior Center**

**9:30 - 10am      Registration**

**10am- 10:45      Business Meeting**  
**Legislative Challenges, Fall Conference Update, Committee Reports**

**11:00- 12:30pm   Evidence-Based Programming: Pros and Obstacles**  
Anita Albright, the Director of the Healthy Aging Unit at DPH will lead a discussion on the pros and obstacles when bringing evidence-based programming into Senior Centers

**12:30- 1:00pm      Buffet Lunch:**

**1:00 - 2:30pm      Committee Meetings: none scheduled so far**

**Registration Deadline is Tuesday June 15<sup>th</sup> \*(received by noon)**

Registration Fees:	MCOA Members	\$20.00
	Non-members	\$40.00

**Morning Meeting only \$10. (space and coffee- no lunch)**

**Note: a Council on Aging or Agency is considered a member if your FY2010 Dues were paid or will be paid.**

<b>Registrant's Name</b>	<b>Council /Agency</b>
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<b>Number of Members Registered</b>	_____ x \$20.00 = _____
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<b>Number of Non-members</b>	_____ x \$40.00= _____
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<b>Morning Meeting Only</b>	_____ x \$10.00= _____
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<b>Total Due</b>	<b>\$_____</b>
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**Payment or Purchase Order should accompany registration form. Make checks payable to MCOA**

**Send to: MCOA 116 Pleasant Street - Room 306, Easthampton, MA 01027-2740**

**Or call: (413)527-6425**

**Or Fax: (413)527-7138**

**Directions for Milford COA:** Get to I-495 south of Mass Pike. Take Exit 20 and travel on Route 85 towards Milford. The road ends at a light which is Route 16. Take a Right and follow Rt. 16 through two sets of lights. At the third set of lights (City Hall in front on left) turn left on to North Bow Street. The COA is on your left about 1/4 down the street – #60.

If lost, contact Milford COA at 508-473-8334



**SUBMITTED BY: AARP Massachusetts, 6/4/10**

**HEALTH CARE REFORM & YOU**

**The New Health Care Law: 10 Things You Need to Know  
(And a Few that may Surprise You)**

Since national health care reform has been signed into law, have you figured out what you need to know? AARP is here to help. The new law brings a number of benefits to all Americans, including people age 50 and over. Some of these changes will happen this year; others will phase in over time.

“The new health care reform law will affect all of us – whether you’re on Medicare, get insurance through your employer, buy it on your own, or are uninsured,” says Deborah Banda, state director of AARP Massachusetts, which represents more than 800,000 members age 50 and older in the Bay State. “By knowing what’s in the law and when the various provisions go into effect, you can make the best decisions for yourself and your family.”

According to the *AARP Bulletin*, there are ten things you need to know, today, about the new health care reform law; it:

1. Helps 32 million more Americans get insurance.
2. Makes coverage denial for preexisting medical conditions a thing of the past, for children from this year on, and adults starting in 2014.
3. Guarantees basic benefits for everyone in Medicare, makes preventative services free for most, and gradually closes the prescription drug “doughnut hole” in the Part D program.
4. Sets up a temporary program in July to help people with preexisting health conditions obtain coverage.
5. Provides new benefits for most people who already have insurance, such as coverage for adult children until age 26.
6. Leaves medical decisions in the hands of you and your doctor.
7. Requires most people to have coverage by 2014 but offers subsidies for those with moderate or low income and makes more people eligible for Medicaid.
8. Creates state-run insurance exchanges – like the Massachusetts Health Connector – offering a menu of private insurance plans for people who are uninsured, self-employed or between jobs.
9. Offers immediate tax credits to help small businesses buy insurance for employees.
10. Keeps Medicare financially sound for nearly 10 more years and reduces the U.S. deficit by an estimated \$143 billion.

“Another great aspect of the new health care law is the creation of a long-term care insurance program,” explains Banda. “It will allow you to make contributions while you are working in return for future cash benefits to help pay for home and community based services.”

A few things about the law may also surprise you:

- Members of Congress will be required to buy health plans through the state-run insurance exchanges.
- Chain restaurants and vending machines must display calorie counts for their foods.
- Illegal immigrants are prohibited from buying health insurance through the exchanges or from getting subsidies.
- Tanning parlor services will have a 10 percent sales tax.

To learn more – or ask your own questions – please visit AARP’s web page that is devoted to providing information about the health care reform law: [www.aarp.org/getthefacts](http://www.aarp.org/getthefacts). To receive a free informational brochure, “How the New Health Care Law Benefits You (D19272),” call AARP Massachusetts toll free at 1-866-448-3621.

Connect with AARP MA online at [www.aarp.org/ma](http://www.aarp.org/ma), [www.facebook.com/aarpma](https://www.facebook.com/aarpma) and [www.twitter.com/aarpma](https://www.twitter.com/aarpma).