

MCOA News

MCOA 116 Pleasant Street, Room 306, Easthampton, MA 01027 tel: 413.527.6425 email: Janiece@mcoaonline.com

Notes from the Executive Director: ~~September~~ Early October 2008

Please Circulate to Your Staff

Enclosed in This Mailing:

- Conference Updates: Keynote Speakers, Awardees, Added Workshops, Evening Events, Registration
- 2008-2009 Nominations for Board and Regional Representatives: Elections October 16th at our Annual Meeting
- Details on the 2009-2012 NISC State Delegate Race (more available from MCOA)
- Legislative Updates: SHN-“9c cuts” EXPECTED, SHN Health Care Agreement Reached with Feds” SHN Question 1 and Seniors, SURVEYUSA Poll Results on Question One
- **MCOA’s FY10 Testimony to EOHHS-** *FYI preliminary draft-More details after conference*
- A Listing of the Stand Alone Prescription Drug Plans
- Fire Safety Poster: Keep Warm-Keep Safe
- Registration for MA Aging & Mental Health Coalition I Conference: Oct 24th
- Registration for CIRCA Training: ServTracker & My Senior Center Nov6&7th
- Registration for Survival Skill for Alzheimer’s Care: Oct 23rd Brockton
- MCOA Planning Calendar 2008-2009 Save your dates now

MCOA Legislative Update: FY09 Budget- Expect 9c Cuts

As the next few articles excerpted from State House News indicate, though the Commonwealth did reach and agreement with the federal government on the Health Care Program, the national economic downturn has severely lowered revenues during the first quarter and projections for the rest of FY09. Thus, the Governor is expected to announce “9c” cuts sometime this month. MCOA’s Board of Directors has already been in discussion with Secretary Festa and our mutual goal is to protect the Formula Grant at \$7/elder. However, it is almost certain that the additional money for new Incentive Grants will be not be released. We expect Secretary Festa to address this issue in detail at our fall conference during Wednesday’s Plenary Session.

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 and Jayne Colino/ Newton jcolino@newtonma.gov

MCOA Legislative Update: continued

As the Vote No on Question One Campaign Builds a Survey USA Poll is very ominous (see attached but don't be afraid- do something!. In uncertain times, people can vote their fears and an ill-conceived ballot question such as this has a better chance to pass. Please **take the following steps RIGHT AWAY – and have your members and allies do so as well** – to help us jump-start our New Media campaign to defeat the ballot initiative to eliminate the state income tax:

- **Go to the website** – www.VoteNoMA.com – and sign up on the email list and take the pledge
- **The website also has a new feature that will detail the cuts your local community will face if this measure passes.**
- Have your Webmaster **grab a site badge/sticker to place on their website.** They are at: <http://votenoma.com/stamps.html>.
If you do, and you would like us to track who signs up for our list coming from your sticker, have your webmaster call Alipes at 617-303-1045 (NB: put the sticker on first and then call.)
- **Send people to the website** for information and talking points. Have them watch the video. Ask them to ask their friends and family to go to the site.
- **Download "The Fact Sheet"** at: <http://votenoma.com/files.php?name=votenoma-facts.pdf>
You can then print it and hand it out at meetings, put it in mailers, etc. THANKS!

Harris Gruman, Political Director, SEIU Massachusetts State Council Service Employees International Union, CLC 145 Tremont Street, Suite 202 Boston, MA 02111 tel: 617-316-0443 fax: 617-482-6521
email: harris.gruman@seiu.org

Information on what municipal employees can do to campaign on ballot initiatives was distributed in our last newsletter but it is also downloadable on our website at www.mcoasonline.com click on “Legislative Updates”

Property Tax Relief Measures. The updated versions of this information is on online
Go to www.mcoasonline.com and click on "Consumers Corner" Thanks to Property Tax Relief Task Force members - especially Pat Costello, Laura Russell, and Pat Carty Larkin for their help with these and to Peter Kubaska at MCOA for adding the MCOA logo and uploading them so quickly. These forms can be tailored to any town and/or used as handouts and as resources for staff and clients. **Norma Simons Fitzgerald, MSW, LICSW Executive Director, Sharon Council on Aging email: nsfmsw@yahoo.com nfitzgerald@townofsharon.org office: 1-781-784-8000 fax: 1-781-784-6126**

And While You Are Online: Check Out a New Feature- MCOA's Bulletin Board

The MCOA Bulletin Board is a members-only section of the MCOA Online website. It can be accessed directly from our website www.mcoasonline.com, and is located at the bottom of the left-hand navigation panel as “Bulletin Board.” To access the bulletin board, please click here and log in. To sign up for a bulletin board account, please fill out our member registration form. This is a one-time-only process to obtain access, and must be completed before logging in on a regular basis. Turnaround for access is generally the same day, or on Monday if received on a Friday. (It is not automated.) There is a Broadcast Announcements/Events section and a Job Listings section where you can post your general announcements and events, as well as upcoming available positions. The General Discussion forum is where you can discuss and create topics that are not already available on the Bulletin Board. Our current Forums include: Outreach, Volunteerism, Program/Activities, Construction/Renovation, Supportive Day, Property Tax Task Force, and Save Our Senior Centers ("Fighting to keep Senior Centers open and appropriately staffed.") Thank you for your participation! Peter Kubaska, Office Assistant, MCOA

PATRICK CONFIRMS WIDESPREAD CUTS TO COME, SAYS HIS AGENDA WILL BE SLOWED

By Jim O'Sullivan and Michael Norton STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, OCT. 2, 2008.....Gov. Deval Patrick, who's spent his first 18 months in office touting the promise of government investments, embarked Thursday on an effort to slice hundreds of millions of dollars in state spending out of the budget, an exercise he predicted would be painful for Massachusetts residents.

Patrick formally announced that in response to a softening economy, a broad spectrum of state entities will cut spending at his request. In addition, Patrick plans in mid-October to unilaterally cut state spending accounts.

The spending cut plans were punctuated by an announcement late Thursday that a key ratings agency had lowered the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority's bond rating, moving it to the brink of junk bond status and driving up borrowing costs for an agency already saddled with debt worth about \$2.5 billion.

Moody's cited as reasons for its move debt service that leaves the agency farther behind in its payments, rising interest costs because of soured debt-financing "swaption" deals, narrowed liquidity, reduced access to credit, postponed decisions on toll increases, and potential slowdowns in revenue from tolls because of the economy.

Legislative leaders quickly topped Patrick's commitment to cut 7 percent from his own administrative budget, for a savings of roughly \$600,000, instead volunteering to trim 10 percent from their own, resulting in \$9.1 million for other spending, they said.

Patrick said, "Behind every one of the cuts we make or reforms we propose is a family, a small business, a nonprofit, or a worthy idea. However, as disruptive as these cuts may be, the circumstances demand action."

Stakeholders in the state's \$28.2 billion budget are angling to avoid those cuts but it appears the spending reductions will be widespread. State tax collections in September, one of the biggest months for government revenues, totaled \$2.1 billion, but declined by 4.9 percent compared to September 2007. The drop leaves total tax revenues over the first quarter of fiscal 2009 up only \$29 million, or six tenths of 1 percent over the same quarter last year, and \$223 million below expectations when \$80 million in non-recurring payments are discounted.

The budget dilemmas bring Patrick reluctantly face-to-face with fiscal exigencies his detractors had long predicted would hobble his sweeping plans to refashion state government. Patrick said Thursday he would continue pursuing infrastructure investments, and that his promise to ease property taxes was dependent on many things, including legislative cooperation.

Asked if economic realities had forced him to begin recalibrating his long-term policy agenda and scale back initiatives, Patrick said, "You bet your life, sure. And this will affect some of them. It's not that we'll be off-track, but it'll be a slower train, there's no doubt about it."

If Question 1 passes, elderly Massachusetts residents with little income could be "priced out of their homes," a home care advocacy group warned Thursday. "Many retirees pay little or no state income tax. Many seniors are living on their Social Security and a small pension or modest investments. But the tax they cannot get out of is the local property tax," said Mass. Home Care executive director Al Norman in a statement. "The state might be forced to repeal or amend the Proposition 2 ½ law, and shift to the property tax instead." Along with deep cuts to fire and police services, numerous elder services could be slashed should voters opt to abolish the income tax, Norman said. He added that if the state turned to the sales tax, it would also harm elderly residents. Proponents of the repeal say the repeal would force the state to spend funds more wisely and would put more earned income back in residents' pockets.

STATE, FEDS AGREE 'IN PRINCIPLE' TO \$21.2B THREE-YEAR HEALTH CARE DEAL

By Kyle Cheney
STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, SEPT. 30, 2008.....With news of Congress's failed attempt at a financial bailout still ringing in their ears, state officials declared victory Tuesday on another looming fiscal issue. Gov. Deval Patrick, joined by legislative leaders and Sen. John Kerry, announced a deal on a \$21.2 billion three-year Medicaid waiver with the federal government to support state health care programs, including key components of the state's landmark 2006 health care access law.

The law has helped insure 439,000 previously uninsured state residents, according to state officials. State officials said their initial request involved about \$23 billion in state and federal funds over three years. A state Executive Office of Health and Human Services spokesman could not outline the \$1.8 billion in spending requests apparently not included in the deal. The agreement will enable the state to fully fund health care programs at least through the current fiscal year, officials said, although they added that the deal was only "in principle" and still had details to be ironed out over the next several weeks. The news coincided with Patrick administration plans to issue revised regulations to increase assessments on certain businesses to support health care. The deal allows the state to secure \$10.6 billion in federal funds by matching that with \$10.6 billion from state coffers, representing a collective \$4.3 billion increase from the previous three-year waiver, which ran through July 1 but has been extended through Oct. 5 while negotiations over the new waiver dragged on. The funds fuel a Medicaid program that provides some level of insurance coverage to 1.1 million people in Massachusetts. Secretary of Health and Human Services JudyAnn Bigby declined to specify what concessions the state made in the deal, although she admitted there were a few. But state leaders – backed by an endorsement of the deal from Sen. Edward Kennedy – heaped praise on the federal government and each other.

In a statement, Kennedy wrote, "Today's agreement is a major achievement for the people of Massachusetts, and I commend Governor Patrick and Secretary Leavitt for all they did to make it possible. The waiver enables the state to continue to provide good, affordable health care to families, and provides additional funding and flexibility to build on these early successes in the years to come. We've made major progress in the program's first two years, cutting the number of uninsured in half, and increasing employer-sponsored coverage. Our experience with health reform in the Commonwealth argues well for our debate on national health reform next year."

Patrick said the deal would help relieve pressure on the state budget but not eliminate it. An announcement on the budget, in light of changing economic circumstances, would be forthcoming this week, he added.

Under the waiver deal, an annual \$1.3 billion cap for state spending on care for the uninsured would be lifted in favor of a three-year \$5 billion cap, giving the state the ability to spend more up front if necessary and deal with shortfalls later. The News Service reported in August that the federal government had offered an increase in spending flexibility to help the state deal with near-term funding shortfalls.

Jim Stergios, executive director of the Pioneer Institute, said the newfound flexibility was a positive development but reinforced the need for Patrick administration officials to be "responsible managers." "Avoid spending tomorrow's money today," he said. "There's going to be a desire to ramp up money you can't sustain." The deal also maintains eligibility for state residents earning up to 300 percent of federal poverty level to enroll in MassHealth and Commonwealth Care, taxpayer-subsidized insurance.

The governor's office said the agreement in principle represents a stronger commitment to the principles of health care reform than the current waiver, which was approved before the passage of the 2006 law.

The agreement preserves existing eligibility and benefit levels for affected state health care programs. It also protects federal matching funds for waiver programs for the long-term unemployed, the disabled and people with HIV.

Lawmakers said the federal support was a validation of their efforts to achieve near universal health care coverage. "We can move forward with our reform strategy," Senate President Therese Murray said. DiMasi said the waiver deal proved, "the blueprint is working."

Sen. Richard Moore, co-chair of the Committee on Health Care Financing, told the News Service the deal was optimal, given the fiscal crisis unfolding in Washington and on Wall Street. "It was an outstanding result," he said.

Consumer advocate Health Care for All lauded the waiver agreement as an indication that the federal government was committed to the long-term success of health care reform in Massachusetts. "It's a terrific deal," said interim executive director Fawn Phelps, "especially in an economically uncertain time." It was not immediately clear how the new agreement treats special payments made by the state to Boston Medical Center and Cambridge Health Alliance. Federal officials have discouraged the payments, hoping to see more funds diverted to insurance coverage, not institutions, while state officials have argued that the payments are necessary because the hospitals support a disproportionate share of the uninsured population in Massachusetts.

At Tuesday's press conference, Bigby said the payments hadn't been an issue during negotiations, although observers and researchers who followed negotiations disputed that contention.

After praising the overall waiver, 1199SEIU assistant director Celia Wcislo said "the supplemental cuts in funding to vital safety net hospitals is an area of concern." Wcislo serves on the board of the state Connector Authority, which is charged with implementing health care reform.

Bigby also told reporters that new rules promulgated by the Division of Health Care Finance and Policy would maintain assessment rules for businesses with 50 employees or fewer. Existing rules require businesses with 11 or more full-time employees to provide insurance to 25 percent of their employees or pay 33 percent of the premium for their insured employees to be exempt from state assessments. Under new rules, employers with 51 or more workers must meet both criteria to avoid assessments.

In another wrinkle to the regulations, the state will exempt from assessments any employer with 51 or more workers if that employer insures 75 percent or more of its workers, Bigby said.

The Patrick administration has pushed for the so-called "fair share assessment" changes to help meet soaring health care expenses.

Sen. Kerry's presence during the press conference was a reminder of the federal fiscal struggles that are increasingly coloring state leaders' financial decisions. Kerry vowed that a deal to rescue flailing Wall Street financial firms and with adequate protections for homeowners and taxpayers would pass Congress soon, perhaps as early as Wednesday.

MCOA Briefs: Fall Conference October 15-17th 2008 at the Sea Crest Resort in Falmouth

**Very important! If you have registered for the fall conference on-line and have not received a confirmation letter from Peter, please contact Peter immediately!
By email peter@mcoaonline.com or 413.527.6425.**

Quick Notes: Added Features and Answers to FAQ- PLEASE READ!

- **Thursday's Early Morning Walk** will be dedicated to **Jan Marble** and led by Ed Pomfred, Keep Moving Program- Leave Lobby 7am
- **Friday's Early Morning Walk** will be dedicated to **Roz Clark** and led by Emmett Schmarsow, Elder Affairs- Leave Lobby 7am
- Given the economic climate of our Commonwealth, the two social events will have a more subdued atmosphere than in previous years- **Wednesday's Reception** entitled Surf and Sandals will feature hor devours and a cash bar- dress is casual and should reflect the beachfront location in mid October. **Thursday's Dinner** entitled Cape Cod Cabaret will showcase three separate acts, a sit down dinner and a cash bar. Dress is optional but encouraged.
- This year we are trying to add '**breakfast roundtables**', for those who rise early and want to share or seek specific information from their peers. So far, two volunteers have agreed to facilitate a discussion Thursday morning on "**Programming for Boomers**". Look for their table starting at 7:30am in the Oceanfront Dining Room. Interested parties willing to lead discussions Thursday or Friday morning please should contact David P. Stevens MCOA david@mcoaonline.com .
- **Ten Workshops will offer CEU's for LPN and RN**
- **Thirty+ Workshops for Social Workers have been approved for CE**
- The **online Program Booklet** has the most up-to-date program descriptions including the listings for CE & CEUs www.mcoaonline.com
- **Wednesday's Plenary Session:** EOEА Secretary Mike Festa will be the keynote and MCOA we will award three Councils on Aging as Innovators of the Year: North Andover, Duxbury and Franklin. In addition, we will award two Advocates of the Year: Judy Tanner (individual) and a team award to Gerontology Institute of UMASS Boston, the MA Association of Older Americans and Wider Opportunities for Women for their development and support of the Elder Economic Security Standard.
- **Thursday's Plenary Session:** EOHHS Secretary JudyAnn Bigby, MD will be the keynote speaker and we will award the following:
 - Director of the Year: Mary Parcher, Framingham
 - Lifetime Achievement James J. Callahan Jr., former EOEА Secretary
 - Staff Certification Directors- Ruth Ann Bleakney from the Milford COA and Deborah Jenkins from the Fairhaven COA
 - Program Managers-Kim McGovern and Mary Ann Socquet both from the Greenfield COA
- *Volunteers are still needed to help with the conference: Retirees can work half day and attend the rest of the day free, lunch included. Contact Jan Timmons/Sandwich 508.888.4737 or Kim Manion/Plymouth 508.830.4230*
- We will need moderators. Upon arrival please check Moderator desk to help out.!

Workshop Changes since last MCOA News

These Workshops will be combined: Wednesday Morning 9:30-12noon

Original Listing:

Introduction to the Conflict of Interest Law W1-4

This presentation explains how to avoid potential conflicts, which may arise between public officials and employees' private interests and their public positions.

David Giannotti, *Chief of Communications and Public Education, State Ethics Commission*

Augmented by:

Paper Trails: What Municipal Records to Keep and How to Dispose

Participants will leave this workshop with an understanding of the law surrounding what public records to keep, for how long, and then how properly dispose of records. **Terry French**, MA State Archives

MCOA Briefs: NISC Nomination

MCOA's Nominating Committee, chaired by Kathy Bowler/Holyoke, is accepting nominations for our 'state' delegate slot to the National Institute of Senior Centers (NISC), an affiliate of the National Council on Aging (NCOA). The final nominee will be MCOA's recommended candidate during the elections to be conducted by NISC over the winter. MCOA will strongly encourage all Massachusetts NISC members to support our Nominee. If our nominee is selected by the NISC membership, then MCOA will provide up to \$2500/year to help compensate for expenses. There are at least two meetings of the NISC Delegate Council held yearly at locations around the United States. Other duties include acting as a liaison between NISC and MCOA: sharing information; advocating for legislative and policy priorities set by our membership and NISC; coordinating training opportunities; and any other duties deemed a priority by MCOA's Board of Directors.

The procedure we have used over the past decade and the Board voted to follow this time is:

- MCOA will accept nominations from members in good standing- this process is a simple letter from the candidate placing his/her name into nomination: "I would like to formally seek the Nomination of the Massachusetts State Delegate for NISC".
- The **deadline for nominations** is Thursday, October 9th 5pm- received in MCOA Office- emails are acceptable-addressed to david@mcoaonline.com
- An **election will be held on October 16, 2008** during our annual meeting, scheduled for 5pm at the Sea Crest Resort in Falmouth. Each candidate will be allowed to distribute a one-page campaign statement and will be given 3 minutes to address the gathering.
- **This election is for the MCOA Nominated Candidate for the MA Delegate to NISC.**
- MCOA's Secretary, Past President and Nominating Committee Chair will conduct the election, count the ballots and announce the decision at the Annual Dinner following the meeting.
- **Again Please Note:** This election will be for MCOA's Nominee for the MA NISC delegate. NISC will conduct their own elections in their own fashion and timeline. This election will simply authorize MCOA to place the name of our nominee on the NISC ballot, campaign for that individual, and if that individual is elected, we would compensate that individual for travel reimbursement –up to \$2500/year.
- This is for a 3-year term from March 2009 to March 2012. An individual may serve two consecutive terms. Our current delegate Jayne Colino from Newton is completing her first 3-year term.

If you have questions about the duties of the Massachusetts State NISC delegate you can contact Sharon Lally, Rochester COA 508.763.8723 or Kathy Bowler, Holyoke COA 413.322.5625

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

David P. Stevens, MCOA

P.S. Within the July mailing that included your FY09 Dues Request, there was a "**Call for Participation**". MCOA seeks interested individuals to serve on the Board, as Regional Representatives and on our various work groups, standing committees and task forces. Elections for our Board and Regional Representatives will also be held Thursday, October 16th at our Annual Meeting. Subsequently our newly elected President will appoint chairs and membership for our various work groups, standing committees and task forces. Please review and complete that form and return it as soon as possible if you want to be part of MCOA's Leadership. Contact Janiece Leach at Janiece@mcoaonline.com for another copy of the "Call for Participation".

MCOA is step one: Our deadline to be MCOA's 'candidate' is October 9th

NISC is step two: The 12-page application and detailed procedure established by NISC is available upon request from Janiece@mcoaonline.com or call 413.527.6425

The deadline to file with NISC is November 21, 2008.

Book these events in your calendar now-

Send additional dates to david@mcoaonline.com

MCOA 2008 Planning Calendar

UPCOMING Events: - Circulate to Your Staff

2008

Oct 6	MGA Fall Policy Conference, Nurses Hall, Boston Presenters: Michael Widmer & Sec. Festa
Oct 15-17	MCOA Fall Conference, Sea Crest Resort, Falmouth
Oct 24	MA Aging and Mental Health Coalition, Holy Cross, Worcester
Nov 21	Advisory Council, Milford COA
Dec 5	Membership Meeting, Milford COA

2009

Jan 16	Board Meeting, TBA
Feb 20	Membership Meeting, Milford COA
March 27	Advisory Council, Milford COA
April 24	Board Meeting TBA
May 12	Joint MPHA/WMACA/ASAP/MCOA Spring Conference
May 15	Advisory Council, Milford COA
June 9 th	Aging and Dignity Conference, Holy Cross
June 19	Membership Meeting, Milford COA
July 16	Advisory Council (Thursday), TBA
August 27	Board Meeting(Last Thursday), Milford COA
September 18	Membership Meeting, Milford COA
October 7-9	MCOA Fall Conference Sturbridge Host
November 20	Advisory Council, Milford COA
December 4	Membership Meeting, Milford COA

TBA = Date or Location to be announced

Regional Meetings:

WMACA	represents the four western MA counties, meets quarterly. Judy White/Monson COA (413)267-4121
CEMACA	represents Central MA, meets 4/year. Betsy Connell/ Worcester EOEa (508)799-8030
CIRCA	represents SE MA and Cape Cod and the Islands, meets quarterly. John Magnani/Falmouth (508)540-0196
NSACA	represents greater North Shore area meets quarterly. Contact Diane Bertolino/Rockport (978)546-2573
DUN/MetroWest	Consortium meets regularly. Contact Mary Parcher/Framingham (508)6204819 &
Minuteman	Consortium meets regularly. Terri Marciello/Wilmington (978)657-7595
Merrimack Valley	Consortium meets regularly. Roseann Robillard/ Newburyport COA (978)462-8650 or Lynne Stanton/ Groveland COA (97)372-1101
HESSCO Area	Consortium meets regularly. Contact Barbara Coghlan/ Walpole (508)668-3330 or Janet Angelico/Wrentham (508)384-5425 or Pat Carty Larkin/Westwood (781)329-8799
Greater Boston	Unaffiliated COAs in Boston, Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop, Somerville, & Cambridge
LOHSC	Meets the 2 nd Friday of each month at MMA/Boston. Contact Bob Cammarata/ Taunton (508)821-1425

UpComing Conferences:

March 15-19, 2009 Joint Conference of NCOA and the American Society on Aging Las Vegas, NV
October 6-9, 2009 MCOA Fall Conference Sturbridge Host

Revised: September 18, 2008

**Please forward all material that you want published in MCOANews to
Janiece@mcoaonline.com**

MCOA Briefs: Job Opportunities

Newbury COA: Part timers in the positions of Coordinator of Volunteers and Program Coordinators; Looking for qualified candidates who might be interested in picking up hours at the Newbury Council on Aging in these positions. I think recruiting someone who is in the current position and looking to pick up more hours is a great opportunity to have continuity of jobs and works out for both centers. We currently have both positions open for 15 hours each with a pay range of \$12.50 to \$14.00. If you know of someone who would like to interview for either position, please send them to me at 978-462-8114. I appreciate your assistance with this.
Martie Joe, Director

Council on Aging Director *Town of Avon* Applications are being accepted from qualified candidates for the full-time position of Council on Aging Director. Candidates should possess a bachelor's degree, with four years experience in a supervisory managerial position as either a senior center director, assistant director, human services manager or related field with supervisory experience, or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Position develops and implements programs and services for the town's senior population. The director plans and administers the annual budget; writes and prepares grants; prepares statistical/financial reports to the COA board; implements board policy; supervises staff; and maintains a direct link with service providers regarding health care, housing, legal, financial and social issues while managing the daily operations of the senior center. Salary DOQ. Resume and cover letter to Michael McCue, Town Administrator, 65 East Main Street, Avon, MA 02322. Applications must be received by 4:00 p.m., Monday, Oct. 20, 2008. AA/EOE

TOWN OF ARLINGTON Department of Health and Human Services: Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition Executive Director 35 hours per week Salary Range: \$25.40-\$34.30 per hour Works within the Department of Health and Human Services to direct the implementation of environmental strategies to decrease substance abuse among youth. The Director will facilitate daily operation of substance abuse prevention coalition, working with various community agencies to collect data, assess the community, work to change attitudes and evaluate success. Director will manage budgets and seek out and write local, state and federal grants. Masters degree in related field preferred with 3-5 years of experience managing grant programs. Send resume to: Personnel Office 730 Massachusetts Avenue Arlington, MA 02476

TOWN OF ARLINGTON Department of Health and Human Services: Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition Project Coordinator TO 28 hours per week Salary Range: \$23.12-\$29.91 per hour Works within the Department of Health and Human Services under the direction of the Youth Health and Safety Coalition Executive Director. Project Coordinator will implement specific environmental strategies to affect change within community and will conduct evaluation. Bachelor's degree in related field preferred with 1-2 years experience in related field preferred. Send resume to: Personnel Office 730 Massachusetts Avenue Arlington, MA 02476

TOWN OF ARLINGTON Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition Diversion Program Coordinator 19 hours per week Salary Range: \$23.12-\$29.91 per hour Works within the Department of Health and Human Services under the direction of the Youth Health and Safety Coalition Executive Director. The Diversion Program Coordinator will work closely with the schools and police to implement the Diversion Program. The coordinator will receive referrals from the police and schools of first time youth offenders and will determine needs of youth to prevent youth from re-offending. Bachelor's degree in related field preferred with 1-2 years experience in related field preferred. Send resume to: Personnel Office 730 Massachusetts Avenue Arlington, MA 02476

MCOA Briefs: Job Opportunities continued

Two employment opportunities with the Massachusetts Assisted Living Facilities Association (or Mass-ALFA, for short) are available. Attached to this email are two postings which we have had advertised on the Boston Globe and Monster.com websites for the past three weeks. One is a Manager of Products and Services and the other is a Manager of Marketing and Membership. If someone you know might be interested, could you please share this information? Both positions are middle manager positions for a small, non-profit trade association that serves the growing assisted living industry. Mass-ALFA's website (www.massalfa.org) has lots of information about the industry here in Massachusetts, including our member listings, our calendar of events (which both positions would be involved) and consumer information.

Manager of Products and Services Massachusetts Assisted Living Facilities Association

The Massachusetts Assisted Living Facilities Association (Mass-ALFA) is a non-profit, membership-based, trade association. Mass-ALFA is a dynamic, team-oriented environment focused on working with organizations that serve the senior population and the growing senior living industry in Massachusetts. The Manager of Products and Services will report to and work closely with the Vice President to develop the content and deliver the package of products and services that is offered through Mass-ALFA. This includes educational programs, seminars and staff training, industry conference and trade show, regional forums (Regional Leadership Councils) for providers and other activities related to Mass-ALFA's strategic plan.

Responsibilities:

- Develops content for the package of products and services to be offered by Mass-ALFA.
- Coordinates implementation of packages of services with Logistics Coordinator.
- Collaborates and coordinates with Marketing and Membership Manager in the marketing and selling of products and services to achieve revenue targets and successful implementation.
- Serves as staff for Regional Leadership Councils by working with Vice President and Chairs of the Councils to provide information, foster collaboration and coordinate Councils' plans and strategic actions.

Manager of Marketing and Membership For the MA Assisted Living Facilities Association

Massachusetts Assisted Living Facilities Association (Mass-ALFA) is a non-profit, membership-based, trade association. Mass-ALFA is a dynamic team-oriented environment focused on working with organizations that serve the senior population and the growing senior living industry in Massachusetts. The Manager of Marketing and Membership is responsible for delivering and implementing a dynamic marketing plan and directing membership services that support the organization's strategic agenda, the products and services offered and the diverse constituencies served by the organization.

Responsibilities:

- Develops and implements a strategic marketing plan for the organization to achieve revenue targets and customer satisfaction for membership, service and product offerings, sponsorship and other organizational initiatives.
- Leads and implements the membership services/functions of the organization including member recruitment, engagement and database management
- Directs the production and distribution of all the organization's publications and the content and production of the web site.

Check out www.massalfa.org for more details on these two positions

MCOA Briefs: Transitions

Welcome New Directors

- Topsfield: Lydia Bertolino, will be replacing Nancy Luther
- Granby: Ann Guenette is replacing Patricia Sicard
- Shirley: Harold Smith is replacing Cynthia Hayes
- Lunenburg: Doreen Noble (Templeton will be replacing Jeanne DeBruin

MCOA welcomes these new directors and wishes long and healthy retirements to their predecessors!

Milestones:

- On September 9th North Attleboro COA celebrated their 35th anniversary
- On October 19th, Amherst COA will celebrate their 40th.

Condolences: MCOA sends our sympathies to:

Barbara Coghlan, Director, Walpole COA, has lost her father, and Pat Roberts, Director Marblehead COA lost her brother.

MCOA Briefs: UpComing Events:

Ounce of Prevention 2008 Tuesday, October 21, 2008 9:00 am– 4:45 pm

Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center, Marlborough, MA

sponsored by Massachusetts Department of Public Health support provided by

AdCare Educational Institute, Inc. Objectives: 1. Build relationships and culturally competent skills for promoting wellness and preventing injury and disease. 2. Broaden strategies for addressing social determinants of health disparities. 3. Strengthen the professional identity and recognition of Community Health Workers (CHWs) as a vital sector of the prevention workforce. Fees & Deadlines. The non-refundable \$50 per person fee pays for registration, Continuing Education Credits, continental breakfast and lunch. Pre-registration is required. The deadline for registration and payment is **October 6, 2008**. If you register and do not attend, you are still responsible for the fee. There are a limited number of **scholarship opportunities** available at \$25. For an application contact Jennifer Fahey at AdCare, (please see the following contact information). Applications must be received by **September 30, 2008**. Registration & Further Information You may register by mail or on-line. To register on-line, please visit our website at www.adcare-educational.org. To register by mail, please complete the registration form and mail a copy and a non-refundable check to AdCare Educational Institute. If you have specific questions, please call: AdCare Educational Institute, Inc. at (508) 752-7313; TTY: (508) 754-0039 or e-mail Jennifer Fahey at jadoros@aol.com

ABCD Income Maximization Training Series

The coming winter will be tough on the wallet: Help people prepare!

Senior Circuit Breaker & other Senior Property Tax Breaks

Wednesday, October 8th 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm

Cass Room, 3rd Fl. ABCD, 178 Tremont St. Downtown Boston

Learn how to help income-eligible seniors and others apply for:

❖ **MA Income Tax Senior “Circuit Breaker” Tax Credit**

- For both Homeowners & Renters age 65+
- Up to \$930 in 2008
- Can file retroactively back three years – up to \$2,610

❖ **Property Tax Deferral**

- For 65+ Massachusetts homeowners of five years or more
- Put off all or part of taxes as long as needed
- City/Town recovers debt when home is sold; can be paid back earlier

❖ **Property Tax Work-Off Program**

- Work for the town and receive up to \$750 abatement off property tax

❖ **Property Tax Exemptions *not limited to Senior Homeowners***

- Includes Seniors 65+ or 70+ (depending on city/town)
- Surviving Spouse/Minor any age, Veterans, Blind & Hardship cases

Laura Henze Russell, Dir., Elders on the Edge, UMBoston Gerontology Institute

& Massachusetts Council on Aging Senior Property Tax Relief Task Force

Brian Lynch, Outreach Coordinator, Massachusetts Department of Revenue

For more info on property tax breaks, see www.mcoaonline.com & click on “Consumer Corner” or www.mass.gov/dor & search for “Senior Tax Tips”

RSVP by October 4th to Roxanne Reddington-Wilde, ABCD Planning

(617) 348-6214 or redwilde@bostonabcd.org

Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.



MCOA Briefs: UpComing Events continued

**REGISTRATION FORM
SERV TRACKER AND MY SENIOR CENTER DATA BASE TRAINING
NOVEMBER 6 AND 7
TAUNTON HOLIDAY INN**

COUNCIL ON AGING _____
ADDRESS _____
EMAIL _____
TELEPHONE _____ Number of Individuals Attending _____

DATA BASE USED _____ Serv Tracker _____ My Senior Center

CIRCA Members - Cost \$60/person for CIRCA Members who have paid their dues. CIRCA members who have not paid their dues, but do so as a part of this training, you can attend at the CIRCA rate. Please note, the CIRCA rate applies to all from a member COA.

NON-CIRCA Members – Cost \$80/person

Friday am demonstration only \$15/person for both CIRCA and non-CIRCA members

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CIRCA Member</u>	<u>Per Person</u>

CIRCA DUES (if applicable) **\$25.00**

Friday Demonstration only **\$15.00**

Total Enclosed _____

ALL REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

NO refunds will be given for any cancellations received after Friday, October 31. Also, if you reserved a space, and cancel after that date, you are responsible for payment. Fax or email registrations are accepted. Please make checks payable to:

CIRCA
c/o Hingham Senior Center
224 Central Street
Hingham, MA 02043

MySeniorCenter Massachusetts Training Agenda

November Meeting

Taunton, MA

- **General and Administration – geared toward Directors/Supervisors/Managers**
 - Managing Groups
 - Reminders
 - Mailing Lists
 - Personnel Management
 - Volunteer timesheets
 - Guest Strategy
 - Payments
 - Generating invoices and receipts
 - Defining and Utilizing Categories
 - Statistics
 - Using for grant applications
 - Using for accountability
 - EOE A
 - **Module: Seniors**
 - Adding new clients
 - Searching and accessing client records
 - Payments
 - Trips
 - Client-specific statistics
 - **Module: Events**
 - Creating new templates
 - Scheduling
 - Register a client for an event
 - Working with the touch screen
 - Trips and payment plan options
 - Event statistics
 - **Module: Meals**
 - Creating new meal templates – congregate and home-delivered
 - Creating meal labels
 - Scheduling
 - Register a client for a meal
 - Meal statistics
 - **Module: Transportation**
 - Managing transportation options
 - Schedule a ride for a client
 - View daily ride manifests
 - Transportation statistics
 - **Module: Equipment**
 - Managing Inventory
 - Rent/check out equipment for a client
 - Equipment statistics
 - **Module: Logs**
 - Quick Add
 - Information and Assistance requests for a client
 - Log Statistics
- | |
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| Thursday
1:00 – 2:30 |
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| Thursday
2:45 – 3:45 |
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| Friday
10:30 – 11:20 |
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| Friday
11:30 – 12:30 |
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| Friday
1:30 – 2:30 |
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| Friday
2:45 – 3:15 |
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| Friday
3:20 – 3:50 |
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SERVtracker

P.O. Box 541489 Merritt Island, FL 32954
800-886-2818 (toll free) 813-283-7888 (fax)

Training Schedule		11/06/08 1:00 PM to 4:00PM
Agenda		Holiday Inn Taunton, MA
Introductions and Review of Agenda	All	1:00 pm
What's New w/ SERVtracker	All	1:15 pm
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New Classroom Scheduler• Enhanced Touchscreen Integration• Upcoming Web Based Application• New Reporting Options<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Member ID Cards w/Pictures		
Break	All	2:30 pm
Massachusetts Annual Report	All	2:45 pm
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Making sure we're ready for 2009!• Setting up data and what data is populated on the report.		
Open Floor to Attendees to bring up items for review on Friday	All	3:45 pm
Day 1 training complete		4:00 pm

Training Schedule		11/07/08 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM
Agenda		Holiday Inn Taunton, MA
SERVtracker Software Demonstration	Prospects	8:30 am
How to increase operational efficiencies with ST	All	10:30 am
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Short cuts• Setup defaults• Toggle between functions• Multiple Entry• Bar code scanning• Touchscreen Monitors• Scheduling tools• Reporting		
Workflow of new client entry – Activity Tracking – Standard Reporting	Beth and Receptionist	11:30 am
Lunch		12:30 pm
Focus of afternoon session will be determined by user feedback prior and during the conference. We want to dedicate a couple hours to specific needs that are brought up on the end of Day 1 and any topics that are sent to us in Advance.	Nancy	1:30 pm
Day 2 training complete		3:30 pm

MCOA Briefs: UpComing Events continued

Massachusetts Public Health Association's 2008 Annual Meeting *Food, Fuel, and the Future: Sustainable Strategies for Healthy Communities* Friday, November 7, 2008 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel and Trade Center Marlborough, Massachusetts

Featuring keynote speaker: Jim Hightower Best known as "America's #1 Populist," Jim Hightower is a former Texas Agriculture Commissioner (1982-1990), national radio commentator, bestselling author, activist and humorist. **Registration and exhibitor information will be available shortly.** If you have any questions, please contact Kara Keenan: kkeenan@mphaweb.org or 617-524-6696, ext. 113.

MCOA Briefs: Member Requests

Emergency Contact Form: Do you have an emergency contact form that people fill out when they come to your senior center? Could you send me a copy? I would like to create one for the people who attend here. Thank you in advance, Christine Clish, Director Townsend, MA coa@townsend.ma.us 978-597-1710
FAX 978-597-1720

Speaker Baby Boomer: Does anyone know a speaker who has done a great and exciting job doing talks to baby boomers on general issues related to retirement planning? We are not seeking financial planners, but someone who can just get the 50-60 set to start thinking positively about it and as a way to draw in the next generation of senior center users. You may respond to: nnivvogel@town.belmont.ma.us Thank you so much.
Nava Niv-Vogel, LICSW, MPH Director Belmont Council on Aging 23 Oakley Road Belmont, MA 02478
Tel #: 617 484 5501 Fax #: 617 489 4117

CORI: Hello everyone. We are updating the policies and procedures for the COA. Does anyone have a written CORI policy that you could share with us? Thank you, Karen L. Phillips Director, Sterling COA/Senior Center kphillips@sterling-ma.gov 1 Park Street PO Box 243 Sterling, MA 01564 978-422-3032
978-422-9916 fax

Warming Centers: Curious if any communities have established protocol for warming centers? If so, please forward any related material. Thank You! **Karen Neiman Michelman** Director Longmeadow Adult Center
231 Maple Road, Longmeadow, MA 01106 413-565-4150

WII Feedback: I'm wondering if I could hear from the senior centers who uses the Nintendo Wii system and how the seniors feel about it? I'm thinking about asking my Friends group to purchase the system and would like to hear some results before I do so. Thank you Trudy Reid / Wenham COA treid@wenhamma.gov

Registration Procedures: We are very interested in revamping or program registration policy and procedures and would like to hear from COA's who feel that their procedures work well. Right now we accept in person registrations only, cash or check and first come first serve. We would like to move to accepting MC/VISA and automating some of the time consuming steps now in place. Also, if anyone has successfully implemented program registrations with the "My Senior Center" software, we would love to hear how it is working out.

Your suggestions and copies of policies and procedures are appreciated. Please respond to: mholak@beverlyma.gov Thanks so much, MaryAnn Holak Beverly COA 978-921-6017

Van Advertising: Has anyone sold advertising space on their COA vans? If so any and all information on this would be appreciated. Susan Schwager, Marion Council on Aging 508 748-3570
sschwager@marionma.gov

Exercise Policies: We were fortunate enough to have two new tread mills donated to us. I was wondering what type of health/safety policies other COAs may have in place in regards to exercise equipment. Thank you,

Sharon Mercurio, Pepperell smercurio@town.pepperell.ma.us

MCOA Briefs: Member Requests continued

Intergenerational Co-location: The Plymouth COA made a decision three years ago to eventually build a senior center next to the high school. Now, we are getting feedback (three years later) that it will not work with the high school students and seniors together. I am interested in hearing what positive/negatives other COA's have high schools that are on the same road, right next to each other or in the same building. Any help would be appreciated. All responses should be sent to kmanion@townhall.plymouth.ma.us

Thank you Kim Manion Director of Elder Affairs Town of Plymouth 508-830-4230

Emergency Assistance Survey: One of our objectives this year is to do an Emergency Assistance Survey that would encompass all departments in the town. The information should be pertinent to every person that lives in town not one group. Two years ago I put together a Survey (with the help of Billerica) that was focused on the older adult in the community it was never mailed. The Town Manager would like a survey that would reflect the needs of every department that would benefit from this survey. Every one from Disability Commission, Emergency Management, Board of Health, Senior Center, Police Department and Fire could utilize the information if the survey is done correctly. Have any other communities addressed this issue?

Please forward surveys to Iobrien@townofnorthandover.com

Thank you for your support. Irene M. O'Brien Town of North Andover Eder Service Director

Associate Board Members: Does any Council on Aging have associate members to their Board? Do you have

job description for that position? What do you think are the benefits/pitfalls of the Associate Board member position? Thank you very much, Carol Hamilton, Marshfield Marshcoa@comcast.net

Client Records-Public: I have a Social Worker on staff that, by nature of her job, gathers a lot of financial and personal information about our Town's residents. It is my understanding that all Town documents are public record and that anyone can ask to see any Town document at anytime. What protects these documents from public disclosure? Is there anything legally binding that protects them? On another note, I have a nurse with medical histories. If you have a staff nurse, please let me know what if anything protects those documents. Thanks very much, Dawn Folopoulos Elder/Human Services Administrator Town of Reading 16 Lowell Street - Reading, MA 01867 Phone: 781-942-6658 Fax: 781-942-9071 (**MCOA Editor Note: They are protected as confidential**)

Vehicle Insurance: We are trying to establish appropriate insurance amounts for vehicles used by our volunteers for transferring our clients to medical appointments. Specifically, we would like to know what you require for:

Bodily injury to others

Personal injury protection

Bodily injury caused by uninsured auto

Damage to other's property

Optional bodily injury to others

Bodily injury caused by underinsured auto

Whatever you can provide will be helpful

Response to; jlong@ci.mashpee.ma.us Thanks James Llong Mashpee COA

Hispanic Programming: We have received an inquiry from a network agency regarding Hispanic programming for elders. If you would, please take a moment (or two!) and note what kind of program(s) you do offer, have offered or are considering that target Hispanic elders in some fashion. Kindly include a program name, brief description, duration (if applicable) and approximate numbers served (if applicable).

Emmett H. Schmarsow Program Manager for Councils on Aging and Senior Centers Executive Office of Elder Affairs 1 Ashburton Place, 5th Fl., Boston, MA 02108 (800) 698-9723 (617) 222-7471 (617) 727-9368 (fax) emmett.schmarsow@state.ma.us

MCOANews: Resources You Can Use

From DPH: AGE PAGES -- BOUND FOR YOUR GOOD HEALTH.

This is a great resource on numerous health topics at your finger tips. These can be ordered (free) www.niapublications.org Thanks to Linn Morrill, Community Liaison, Healthy Aging Health and Disability MA Department of Public Health.

From NCLC: A recent ruling from Karen Robinson, head of the DPU's Consumer Division, which instructs electric and gas customers that they must place applicants for the discount rate onto the rate as soon as the customer requests. Companies can no longer delay placing customers onto the discount rate while the company goes about verifying the customer's eligibility. Please spread the word far and wide, this is a very helpful ruling!

Charles Harak, Esq. National Consumer Law Center 7 Winthrop Sq., 4th flr. Boston, MA
02110-1245 617 542-8010 (voice) 617 542-8028 (fax) charak@nclc.org

From Masspro: NEED TO LOCATE A FLU CLINIC Use the Website below from October to April to find public flu clinics in Massachusetts: <http://Flu.masspro.org>

Or call the Massachusetts Department of Public Health toll-free at 1-866-627-7968.

Additional resources for flu, pneumococcal, and other adult vaccinations:

Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) www.mass.gov/dph/flu

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) www.cdc.gov/flu

Masspro 245 Winter Street Waltham, MA 02451 781.890.0011 tel 781.890.3223 fax www.masspro.org

Masspro is one of the leading performance improvement organizations in the United States, dedicated to advancing healthcare quality. Founded by the Massachusetts Medical Society, which publishes the New England Journal of Medicine, Masspro transforms healthcare through developing and disseminating innovative solutions across all sectors of the healthcare delivery system. Masspro's performance improvement expertise combined with our unique ability to work across the full continuum of patients, providers, purchasers, and payers, enables us to help transform the care delivery system as a whole, not just its individual components.

More from DPH: Dear Colleagues, The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), in collaboration with the Local Public Health Institute of Massachusetts, is pleased to announce the continuation of the statewide educational campaign *Flu: What You Can Do – Caring for People at Home*. This initiative launched in November 2007 with the goal of providing information and tools to enable residents in Massachusetts to care for themselves and their loved ones at home, during the regular flu season or a pandemic. MDPH prioritizes educating residents in order to build the preparedness and community resiliency that will be very important during a pandemic. MDPH would like to thank everyone who has been a partner in the campaign to date; your involvement has been instrumental in the success of the campaign. Due to your participation, the campaign has exceeded its goals. Accomplishments over the past year include the:

- distribution of 330,000 English, Spanish and Portuguese booklets;
- distribution of the video to all local boards of health and approximately 82 cable access stations; and
- implementation of 23 “Educating Communities on Flu Care at Home” training sessions across the state resulting in the preparation of 275 participants to become part of the education team.

Evaluation is currently being conducted to measure change in knowledge, perceptions and attitudes, and intent to change behavior that will inform the campaign as we move forward.

As we move into the next flu season, our goal is to expand the campaign to reach even more Massachusetts residents, including greater numbers of people who do not read English, and those who may need special assistance during an emergency. We will be translating the booklet into Chinese, Vietnamese and Haitian Creole, developing lower literacy level educational item(s), increasing partnerships with community members that represent diverse populations, and providing more training sessions to increase the amount of community educational teams. We anticipate translation of the booklet into the new languages will be completed by September 15th.

MCOANews: Resources You Can Use continued

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the new name for the Federal Food Stamp Program. As of October 1, 2008, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the new name for the Federal Food Stamp Program. The new name reflects our nutrition focus and changes that will help us to better meet the needs of our clients. Program improvements include an increase in the minimum benefit (from \$10 to \$14) and standard deduction, elimination of the cap on dependent and child care deductions and the exclusion of education and retirement accounts from countable resources. SNAP is the federal name for the Program. State programs may have different names. Please reassure your clients that the name change will not disrupt service or benefits. This name change is mandated on the Federal level only, though we very much encourage and support State efforts to align their names with SNAP. Through nutrition education partners, SNAP continues to help clients learn to make healthy eating and active lifestyle choices. Please help us spread the word about SNAP. We've developed a number of SNAP resources, including newsletter articles (short and long versions), labels for your materials, and fact sheets. For access to these materials and more information about the name change, please visit <http://www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/snap.htm>. Your continued support and enthusiasm will help us fully implement the new name and ensure that our Program continues to put healthy food within reach for low-income Americans nationwide. Thank you. Eddie Ortega
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (617) 565-6413 www.FNS.USDA.gov

The Elder Economic Security Standard: Developed by the Gerontology Institute at UMASS, Boston, and Wider Opportunities for Women, the Elder Standard offers reliable data for measuring the economic realities of senior living by region/county, health status, renter or home owner with/without a mortgage. Its purpose is to help individuals and community leaders understand and plan to meet the needs of seniors whose incomes may not extend to cover their most basic needs. The Elder Standard demonstrates that couples and individuals cannot live on average Social Security benefits or at the poverty level, regardless of county. Moreover, the report provides specific data dealing with housing and health care costs, the largest expense in seniors' budgets. Copies of the Elder Standard will be available at EOEA as well as electronically at; www.gernont.umb.edu/eess and at www.MAOAmass.org. For more information, please call Ann L. Hartstein at the MA Association of Older Americans, Inc. at 617-426-0804, or email at advocacy@MAOAmass.org.

Systems Transformation Grant Interested Parties vitation sent on behalf of Executive Office of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary McGuire, Executive Office of Elder Affairs Festa, and Medicaid Director Dehner: You are cordially invited to attend a Public Education Forum on the Community First Olmstead Plan. The public education forums are scheduled to take place at (4) locations across the Commonwealth. To learn more about the Community First Olmstead Plan please attend a Community Education Forum near you.

Boston: Monday, October 6th, 1:00 pm -2:30 pm Massachusetts State House, Gardner Auditorium
Northampton Friday, October 10th, 2:00 pm -3:30 pm Northampton Senior Center 67 Conz St, N'hampton,
Plymouth Tuesday, October 21st, 2:00 pm -3:30 pm Plymouth Public Library 132 South St., Plymouth, MA
Worcester Thursday, October 23rd, 6:00 pm -7:30 pm Worcester Sr Center 128 Providence Street, Worcester
All meeting locations are accessible. Sign language interpreters and CART will be provided. The Community First Olmstead Plan is a roadmap and action plan reflecting Governor Patrick's commitment to ensuring that people with disabilities and elders have access to community-living opportunities and supports that address each individual's diverse needs, abilities and backgrounds. The plan was developed by EOHHS with feedback and direction from a diverse group of stakeholders comprised of providers, consumers, and advocates.

We hope that as many of you as possible will join us. Please forward to any interested parties. Shannon Hall
Executive Office of Health and Human Services ~ Project Management Office 600 Washington Street,
Office 5257 Boston, MA 02111 Tel: 617-210-5084 Shannon.hall@massmail.state.ma.us

MCOANews: Resources You Can Use continued

More from DPH: Quit Smoking We wanted to make sure that you were aware that the Massachusetts Department of Public Health is offering a free quit smoking promotion for people in recovery from alcohol or other drug use that will run from September 23rd to December 31, 2008. Between these dates, people in recovery across Massachusetts will be able to call 1-800-TRY-TO-STOP (1-800-879-8678) or 1-800-8-DEJALO (1-800-833-5256) for Spanish speakers and, if they pass a medical screen, receive a FREE one month supply of nicotine patches. All callers will be eligible to receive information and support to help them quit smoking. This is a word-of-mouth campaign so we are asking you to help us to get the word out. Here are a few ways you can help out:

- Put up posters and distribute flyers and wallet cards within your own organization and to friends and family.
- Conduct presentations in staff meetings or with community partners.
- Put up posters in community bulletin boards, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meeting sites, and in other community organizations. [Note: Please ask permission from the AA and NA meeting locations before putting up posters. You can find a list of AA sites by city/town at www.aaboston.org; search for NA sites by city/town at www.na.org. Another helpful site is <http://www.westernmassaa.org>.] Mention the promotion in newsletters and/or community newspapers, local radio, or local cable/access television.

- This website has a pdf of the poster that you can download, and more information about the campaign: <http://www.makesmokinghistory.org/recovery/index.html> Posters, flyers and wallet cards are available in English and in Spanish. Please call **1-866-586-3050** or e-mail info@causemedia.com to request printed materials. You also have the option of going to pick up materials at one of the locations listed in the attachment below. Sarah Ruiz Bureau of Substance Abuse Services Massachusetts Department of Public Health

250 Washington Street, 3rd Fl. Boston, MA 02108-4619 617-624-5136 www.mass.gov/dph/bsas

Distribution Sites for recovery community quit smoking promotion materials: Posters and wallet cards are available to be picked up at the following locations. You can also call 866-586-3050 to request materials to be mailed to you.

Boston

STEP, Inc. 131 Beverly Street Boston, MA 02114 617-720-0153

STEPRox 9 Palmer Street Roxbury, MA 02119 617-849-2712

Greater Boston Center for Healthy Communities 622 Washington Street, 2nd floor Dorchester, MA 02124-3548 Contact: Shari Sprong 617-423-4337

Northeastern MA

P.E.O.P.L.E. Recovery Center 11 South Union Street Lawrence, MA 01841 978-688-5767

Northeast Center for Healthy Communities One Canal Street Lawrence, MA 08140 Contact: Jim Ryan 978-688-2323

Metrowest

Metrowest Regional Center for Healthy Communities 552 Massachusetts Avenue, Ste 203 Cambridge, MA 02139 Contact: Nicia Gordon 617-441-0700

Southeastern MA

Southeastern Recovery Engagement Center 42 Crescent Street Brockton, MA 02301 508-463-6123

Southeast Center for Healthy Communities 942 West Chestnut Street Brockton, MA 02301

Contact: Debbie Sirois, M/W/Thur 1-4:30 508-583-2350 / 1-800-530-2770

Central MA

Central MA Center for Healthy Communities 44 Front Street, Suite 280 Worcester, MA 01608

Contact: Vicente Sanabria 508-438-0515

Western MA

RECOVER Project 68 Federal Street Greenfield, MA 01301 413-774-5489

Western MA Center for Healthy Communities 489 Whitney Avenue, Suite 201 Holyoke, MA 01040

Contact: Miriam Jusino, Ext. 0 413-540-0600

MCOANews: Resources You Can Use continued

Commonwealth Corps: The Governor has launched the Commonwealth Corps to engage Massachusetts residents of all ages and backgrounds in direct service to rebuild communities and address their unmet needs. Corps members will provide direct service in local non-profits, recruit, organize and mobilize additional volunteers - building a grassroots movement of volunteers dedicated to service. \$2.3 Million in grant funding has been authorized for 36 public and non-profit organizations to take on nearly 300 Corps members this fall. Organizations are now recruiting Corps members, and we want to reach out to mature adults who would bring their years of experience to their communities. There are full-time, part-time and flex-time opportunities available with stipends- making it ideal for many retirees. I wanted to make sure that older adults in Massachusetts hear about these opportunities, and am reaching out to you to ask AARP and MCOA to help us spread the word. Perhaps you can send this to local coordinators or listservs? Interested individuals can apply to be members by finding positions online through Connect and Serve (see link below) or by calling the grantee organization in their community, listed at the end of this email. We are also open to suggestions about other ways to reach out over the next few weeks, so please share your thoughts. **To Become A Corps Member:**

- Check out available opportunities on Connect and Serve. http://volunteer.united-e-way.org/mass-service/org/opp/medallions/?medallion_id=10289996857
- Learn more about the Commonwealth Corps.
<http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=gov3subtopic&L=4&L0=Home&L1=Key+Priorities&L2=Civic+Engagement+%26+Strong+Communities&L3=The+Commonwealth+Corps&sid=Agov3>
- Click here to read *The Civic Engagement Times*
<http://www.mass.gov/Agov3/docs/cetseptoct08.pdf>

Thanks, **Elizabeth Clay** Director of Commonwealth Corps and Grassroots Governance Office of Governor Deval L. Patrick Room 160, State House Boston, MA 02133 (617) 725-4036 (617) 721-8476 (C)

News from the Massachusetts Service Alliance September 2008

This is an exciting time for service and volunteerism here in the Commonwealth as well as across the nation. On the national front, there is a growing dialogue about increasing the opportunities for national service. Senators Kennedy and Hatch have submitted a bill calling for increased support for service. Both Senator McCain and Senator Obama have pledged support for national service and AmeriCorps. Leaders gathered in New York City on September 11-12 for a Summit on National Service sponsored by Service Nation. The summit will be followed up by a National Day of Service on September 27th. On September 8th, MSA Board Chair Brendan Coughlin, Board member Gregg Carman, and I had the opportunity to attend an event at the White House where President Bush shared his thoughts on volunteerism and service. It was heartening to hear the President's speech in which he recognized the efforts of so many Americans who give of themselves to better their communities. He challenged all Americans to give 4,000 hours of community service over their lifetimes. That sounds like a lot, but it is a little more than an hour per week. Here at home, MSA is excited to partner with the Governor's Office on the new Commonwealth Corps initiative. Commonwealth Corps provides the opportunity to engage hundreds of Massachusetts residents in service to their communities. I am excited by the opportunities we have to expand MSA's reach across the Commonwealth. Check out the Fall Training calendar filled with workshops for organizations that manage volunteers and corps-based programs. Keep your eyes open in future newsletters for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service mini-grants, and plan on attending our statewide conference on service and volunteerism in the spring. As we move into the final stages of the Presidential election season, the political debates are heating up and issues that divide people are highlighted. However, the need for mentoring our children, maintaining our natural spaces, and caring for the elderly does not need to be debated. These are just a few of the ways that caring people throughout the Commonwealth serve their communities. We come together through volunteerism and service and MSA is here to support those efforts. Thank you for your continued care and commitment to the communities of the Commonwealth. Yours in Service, **Emily Haber**
CEO Massachusetts Service Alliance For more information about the exciting 'happenings' at MA Service Alliance go to <http://www.mass-service.org/>

MCOANews: Resources You Can Use continued

From the Department of Treasury: In advance of National Crime Prevention Month in October, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's campaign for Social Security recipients is asking the Massachusetts Councils on Aging to include **Direct Express** content in your October or November newsletter. As you know, the U.S. Treasury launched the Direct Express debit card for Massachusetts Social Security recipients in July. Because this option is new to check recipients, Crime Prevention Month presents a good opportunity to discuss the safety benefits of electronic payment. I have attached suggested newsletter content for your review and inclusion. Please feel free to adjust this content as you see fit. We appreciate your continued support of this important campaign. Please let me know if you intend to include this content, or if you have any questions. Regards, Alyssa Karp On Behalf of the U.S Department of the Treasury

Alyssa.karp@webershandwick.com

617-520-7031

A safe, convenient alternative to paper Social Security checks

*The **Direct Express**[®] Debit MasterCard[®] card is now available in Massachusetts*

Have you ever worried that your Social Security check will be lost or stolen? Are you nervous about carrying around large amounts of cash?

You should know about a new safe and convenient option – the **Direct Express**[®] Debit MasterCard[®] card. It's a prepaid debit card that is available to anyone who receives Social Security or SSI payments, even if you don't have a bank account. Sign-up is free and no credit check is required.

The **Direct Express** card is simple and easy to use. Your federal benefits will be automatically posted to your account on payment day each month. The card can be used to make purchases, pay bills and get cash at retail locations and ATMs nationwide. It is possible to use the **Direct Express** card for free - there are no monthly fees and most services are offered free of charge.

The **Direct Express** card is a safe way to receive your money, eliminating the need to carry large amounts of cash. The money on the **Direct Express** card is FDIC-insured (up to the maximum allowed by law) and the card account is protected by a Personal Identification Number (PIN) for ATM withdrawals and at retail locations. If your card is ever lost or stolen, it will be replaced.

The **Direct Express** card is being issued by the U.S. Department of the Treasury's financial agent, Comerica Bank. The Treasury encourages anyone who is eligible for Social Security or SSI benefits to consider using the **Direct Express** card.

Signing up is quick and easy – call toll free 1-877-212-9991 or visit www.USDirectExpress.com.

MA Department of Fire Services

Please find attached an updated **Keep Warm, Keep Safe flyer**, one 8 1/2" X 11", front and back, which gives basic winter heating fire safety information. This material may also be useful for newsletters. For more information about fire safety programs, please contact:

Donna K. Nelson

Program Assistant to the Deputy State Fire Marshal, MA Dept of Fire Services PO Box 1025, State Rd.
Stow, MA 01775

978-567-3149 (direct #)

978-567-3121 (fax)

978-567-3100 (main #)

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES

PO Box 1025, State Road • Stow, Massachusetts 01775 • 978-567-3100
• www.mass.gov/dfs

Think safety first when heating your home this winter!

Heating is the #2 cause of home fires in Massachusetts, causing over 14,000 fires over the past five years. Use your home heating system and space heating appliances wisely and responsibly. That's the way to...Keep Warm - Keep Safe.

COVER THE ABCS OF FIRE SAFETY

- Make sure there are working smoke alarms on every level including one outside the bedrooms.
- Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms monthly and change batteries twice a year, when you change the clocks.
- Hold home fire drills to practice the home escape plan.
- Practice home fire safety and set a good example for the children.

BE CAREFUL WHEN USING FIREPLACES AND SOLID FUEL STOVES

- If you heat your home by burning *solid fuels* (coal, firewood, pellets), be careful before, during and after using these kinds of fuels.
- Have the chimney professionally cleaned every year.
- Make sure the stove is approved by a national testing agency such as Underwriter's Laboratory (UL).
- You must get a building permit before installing a stove.
- Keep anything that can burn 3-feet away.
- Dispose of the ashes in a **metal** container, with a lid, away from the house, garage and porch.

SPACE HEATERS NEED SPACE

- Fires caused by space heaters are rare but often deadly. If you must use a space heater, do so safely.
- Do not use space heaters as your #1 heating source.
- Keep anything that can burn 3-feet away. Use only heavy-duty extension cords.
- Always turn off when going to bed or leaving home.
- Portable kerosene heaters are illegal in MA to use in your home.

Keep Warm - Keep Safe
Winter 2008-09



At the Center of it All.

**MCOA Annual Report to the Membership
Part I:**

- **Nominations for the Election of Officers & Regional Representatives for FY09**

MCOA

2008-2009

Nominations for Election of Officers & Regional Representatives

The following list of officers and regional representatives have been nominated to serve a one year term. The election will be October 16, 2008 at MCOA's annual meeting

submitted by the Nominating Committee:

Chair Kathy Bowler, Holyoke
Mary Parcher, Framingham
Laura Mailman-Merrimac
Barbara Farnsworth- Hingham

Proposed Board of Directors

<u>Board Position</u>	<u>Election Slate for October 16, 2008</u>	<u>Region</u>
President	Sharon Lally-Rochester	SE
Vice President	Sandy Vickery-Bourne	SE
Secretary	Laura Mailman-Merrimac	NE
Assistant Secretary	Marge McDonald-Burlington	Metro
Treasurer	Sandra Lapollo-Chicopee	West
Assistant Treasurer	George Heeley -Paxton	Central
State NISC Delegate	Jayne Colino- Newton	Metro
LOHSC/MMA Liaison	Robert Cammarata -Taunton	SE
Conference Chair	Kathy Bowler-Holyoke	West
Legislative Chair	Barbara Farnsworth-Hingham	SE
Past President	John Jope -Arlington	NE
At Large	Norma Simon Fitzgerald-Sharon	Metro
At Large	Cindy HickeySomerville	Metro
At Large	Pat Roberts-Marblehead	NE
At Large	Amy Waters -Worcester	Central
At Large	Joanne Moore- Duxbury	SE
At Large	Ruthann Dobek- Brookline	Metro

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Regional Representatives

Attached are the names of individuals that wish to be MCOA Regional Representatives. These are the names submitted by October 1, 2008. Vacancies do exist and will be filled as volunteers come forward. The number of Regional Representatives can vary due to needs in local region. Interested parties should contact MCOA.

**2007-2008 MCOA
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**

Listed By AAA/HCC District	Towns Located within this Region	MCOA Regional Representatives with Towns and Telephone Number
Minuteman	Acton, Arlington, Bedford, Boxborough, Burlington, Carlisle, Concord, Harvard, Lexington, Lincoln, Littleton, Maynard, Stow, Wilmington, Winchester, Woburn	Karen Santucci/ Lincoln COA (781)259-8811 Terry Marciello/Wilmington COA (978)657-7595 Kathy Mull/Carlisle COA (978)371-2895
West Surburban	Belmont, Brookline, Needham, Newton, Waltham, Watertown, Wellesley, Weston	Eileen Bogle/ Weston COA (781)893-0154 Nava Niv-Vogel/ Belmont COA, (617)484-5501
Mystic Valley	Everett, Malden, Medford, Melrose, North Reading, Reading, Stoneham, Wakefield	Judy Luciano/ Wakefield COA (781)245-3312 Jack Beckley/Melrose COA(781)665-4304
NSACA covering the AAA/HCC districts of North Shore Elder Services, Greater Lynn Senior Services, and Senior Home Care Services	Beverly, Danvers, Essex, Gloucester, Hamilton, Ipswich, Lynn, Lynnfield, Manchester, Marblehead, Middleton, Nahant, Peabody, Salem, Saugus, Swampscott, Rockport, Topsfield, Wenham	Carolyn Wynn/ Peabody COA (978)531-2254 Mary Ann Holak/Beverly COA(978)921-6017 Pam Parkinson Danvers COA
Merrimac Valley	Amesbury, Andover, Billerica, Boxford, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Georgetown, Groveland, Haverhill, Lawrence, Lowell, Merrimack, Methuen, Newbury, Newburyport, North Andover, Rowley, Salisbury, Tewksbury, Tyngsborough, Westford, West Newbury, West Newbury	Pam Blaquiere/ Boxford COA (978)887-3591 Joanne Sheehan/Westford COA (978)692-5523 Donna Popkin/ Billerica (978)671-0916
Boston, Cambridge, Somerville, Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop	Boston, Cambridge, Somerville, Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop	
Bristol County	Attleboro, Berkley, Dighton, Fall River, Freetown, Mansfield, North Attleboro, North Westport, Norton, Raynham, Rehoboth, Seekonk, Somerset, Swansea, Taunton, Westport	Gail Farrugia/ Mansfield COA (508)261-7368 Pam Hunt/ North Attleboro COA (508)699-0131

Listed By AAA/HCC District	Towns Located within this Region	MCOA Regional Representatives with Towns and Telephone Number
Coastline	Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Gosnold, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, North Dartmouth, Rochester	Deborah Jenkins/ Fairhaven COA (508)979-4029 Felice Monterio/ New Bedford COA(508)991-6251
South Shore	Braintree, Cohasset, Hingham, Holbrook, Hull, Milton, Norwell, Quincy, Randolph, Scituate, Weymouth	Florence Choate/ Scituate COA (781)545-8722 Sue Barnes Weymouth COA
Old Colony	Abington, Avon, Bridgewater, Brockton, Carver, Duxbury, East Bridgewater, Easton, Halifax, Hanover, Hanson, Kingston, Lakeville, Marshfield, Middleborough, North Easton, Pembroke, Plymouth, Plympton, Rockland, Stoughton, Wareham, West Bridgewater, Whitham	Carol C. Hamilton Marshfield COA (781)834-5581 Mary Willis/ Pembroke COA (781)294-8220 Muriel Boyce/ Kingston COA (781)585-0512
Cape & Islands	Barnstable, Bourne, Brewster, Buzzards Bay, Chatham, Chilmark, Dennis, Eastham, Edgartown, Falmouth, Gay Head, Harwich, Hyannis, Mashpee, Nantucket, Oak Bluffs, Orleans, Provincetown, Sandwich, Tisbury, Truro, Vineyard Haven, Wellfleet, West Tisbury, Yarmouth	Liz Smith/ Orleans COA (508)255-6333 Ellen Ford/ Chatham COA (508)945-5190 John Magnani/ Falmouth COA (508)540-0196
Montachusettts	Ashburnham, Ashby, Ayer, Berlin, Bolton, Clinton, Fitchburg, Gardner, Groton, Hubbardston, Lancaster, Leominster, Lunenburg, Pepperell, Princeton, Shirley, Sterling, Templeton, Townsend, Westminster, Winchendon	Doreen Noble/ Lunenburg COA (978)632-4592 Sharon Mercurio/Pepperell COA (978)433-0326
Elder Home Care of Worcester	Auburn, Barre, Boylston, Grafton, Hardwick, Holden, Leicester, Millbury, New Braintree, Oakham, Paxton, Rutland, Shrewsbury, West Boylston, Worcester	Sharon Yager/ Shrewsbury COA (508)841-8642 Patty Hainsworth / Worcester EOE A (508)799-1232
Tri Valley	Bellingham, Blackstone, Brookfield, Charlton, Douglas, Dudley, East Brookfield, East Douglas, Franklin, Hopedale, Medway, Mendon, Milford, Millville, Northbridge, North Brookfield, Oxford, Southbridge, Spencer, Sturbridge, Sutton, Upton, Uxbridge, Warren, Webster, West Brookfield	Ruth Anne Bleakney/ Milford COA (508)473-8334 Pamela Woodbury/ Spencer COA (508)885-7546 Laura DeMattia/ Bellingham COA (508)966-0398

Listed By	Towns Located within this Region	MCOA Regional Representatives
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AAA/HCC District		with Towns and Telephone Number
Bay Path	Ashland, Dover, Framingham, Holliston, Hopkinton, Hudson, Marlboro, Natick, Northboro, Sherborn, Southboro, Sudbury, Wayland, Westborough	Mary Parcher/ Framingham COA (508)532-5980 Kris Kiesel / Sudbury COA (978)443-3055
HESSCO	Canton, Dedham, Foxborough, Medfield, Millis, Norfolk, Norwood, Plainville, Sharon, Walpole, Westwood, Wrentham	Janet Angelico / Wrentham COA (508)384-5425 Pat Carty-Larkin/ Westwood COA (781)329-8799 Sue Hinski/ Plainville (508) 699-7384
Greater Springfield	Agawam, Brimfield, East Longmeadow, Hampden, Holland, Longmeadow, Monson, Palmer, Springfield, Wales, West Springfield, Wilbraham	Dorothy Hooper/ Wilbraham COA (413)596-8379 Judy White/ Monson COA (413)267-4121 Rebecca Moriarty/ Hampden (413)566-5588
Western Mass.	Belchertown, Chicopee, Granby, Holyoke, Ludlow, South Hadley, Ware	Beth Kaltner/ Ware COA (413)967-9645 Joanne Trybus/South Hadley COA (413)538-5042 Jodi Ahern/ Ludlow COA (413)583-3564
Highland Valley	Amherst, Blandford, Chester, Chesterfield, Cummington, Easthampton, Goshen, Granville, Hadley, Hatfield, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery, Northampton, Pelham, Plainfield, Russell, Southampton, Southwick, Tolland, Westfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington	Linda Talbot /Easthampton COA (413)527-6151 Tina Gorman/ Westfield (413)562-9624
Berkshire County	dams, Alford, Becket, Cheshire, Clarksburg, Dalton, Egremont, Florida, Great Barrington, Hancock, Hinsdale, Lanesborough, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Ashford, New Marlborough, North Adams, Otis, Peru, Pittsfield, Richmond, Sandisfield, Savoy, Sheffield, Stockbridge, Tyringham, Washington, West Stockbridge, Williamstown, Windsor	Brian O'Grady/ Williamstown COA (413)458-8250 Sue Jacobs/ Dalton COA (413)684-2000 Norma Maroney/ Lee COA (413)243-5545
Franklin County	Ashfield, Athol, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Greenfield, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Leyden, Monroe, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Rowe, Royalston, Shelburne, Shutesbury, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell, Whately	Hope McCary Greenfield COA (413)772-1517

**Testimony submitted to the
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Regarding the FY10 Budget
from the Massachusetts Councils on Aging**

The Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging and Senior Center Directors is fully aware of the current fiscal climate in the nation and the Commonwealth. We also recognize that tough choices were made to establish the FY09 Budget and that even these allocations may need to be adjusted within this funding cycle.

As the Governor proposes House1 for FY10 we place our confidence in the Administration to review their options and propose fair and equitable funding for municipal Councils on Aging in Line Item #9110-9002 (Local Aid).

Recognizing the fiscal climate, MCOA voted at its September 19, 2008 membership meeting to advocate for level funding for FY10 (FY09 GAA).

If during the course of FY10 additional resources became available, MCOA would aggressively advocate for an appropriate increase within the line item. Our goal long range goal is to increase the Formula Grant to \$8/elder/YEAR, from the current state support of \$7/elder/YEAR.

At this time, we would also recommend that the following legislative changes be made in the FY10 allocation for line item #9110-9002.

1. **Relocate LGBT Aging Project Language:** Within Line Item #9110-9002 (source GAA FY09) the following language should be relocated :

For the local services program for grants to the councils on aging and for grants to or contracts with non-public entities which are consortia or associations of councils on aging; provided, that notwithstanding the foregoing, all monies appropriated in this item shall be expended in accordance with the distribution schedules for formula and incentive grants established by the secretary; **provided further, that not less than \$80,000 shall be provided to the LGBT Aging Project;** and provided further, that such distribution schedules shall be submitted to the house and senate committees on ways and means.....**\$8,615,068**

The language for the LGBT Aging Project appeared several years ago as an earmark within the municipal COA line item. This was the result of last minute negotiations of the line item and while MCOA fully supports this initiative, it is not related to the original intent of Line Item #9110-9002-Local Aid to Municipal Councils on Aging. Over the course of the last few budget cycles as both COAs and the Project have sought increases, tensions arose over additional allocations. The LGBT Project is based within the ASAP network with few direct affiliations with COAs. MCOA regularly invites the Project to provide training COA our staff.

MCOA is asking to relocate the funding and the language for the LGBT Aging Project to a more appropriate line item: “provided further, that not less than \$80,000 shall be provided to the LGBT Aging Project;”

We have contacted all principals involved (Mass Home Care, LGBT Aging Project, MGLPC, \EOEA, the chairs of HWM and SWM, and the original sponsors of this earmark) and we have not encountered any opposition to this proposed relocation. The money and language should be relocated perhaps to #9110-1900 which until recently was labeled Community Services

- 2. Property Tax Relief:** The following items did not pass during the FY09 budget process (Senate included but omitted at conference committee stage) and MCOA strongly supports passage of these items that provide additional Property Tax Relief for Seniors:

Change the language for hardship waivers.

We propose changing the Hardship Waiver statutory language to read “or” rather than “and,” which will allow Town Assessors more discretion to grant hardship waivers (M.G.L. Ch. 59 Sec. 5(18A))

Change interest rate on deferred tax charged to a person’s estate.

Currently, if a senior defers paying property taxes, the municipality can charge a favorable interest rate, up to a maximum of 8% (M. G.L. c. 62, § 6(k), added by sections 80 and 81 of chapter 127 of the Acts of 1999.) After the person dies, however, the interest rate automatically becomes 16%, which is the rate specified for other land taken or sold for taxes. MCOA proposes to continue the favorable interest rate for a period of six months or even one year so that the person’s estate can be settled. (M. G.L. c.60. & 62.)

Increase the Senior Volunteer Tax Credit.

Currently Chapter 59, section 5K allows seniors to volunteer for the city or town to work off their property tax bill up to a maximum of \$750. MCOA proposes to increase that figure to \$1,000.

Create an Educational Awareness program to provide greater information to elder taxpayers

These four Property Tax Relief items are priorities of MCOA’s Property Tax Task Force comprised of COA Directors, Town Assessors and consumers. On September 19, 2008, the membership of MCOA reaffirmed their support for passage of these vital changes in the property tax laws in order to provide needed additional property tax relief for the older homeowners of the Commonwealth.

Thank you for the opportunity and consideration of MCOA’s legislative priorities for FY10. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to further discuss this agenda. Please don’t hesitate to contact either Barbara Farnsworth, Legislative Chair, at 781-741-1458 or me at 413-527-6425 with any questions and/or additional information that you may need regarding our position.

Submitted on behalf of the Membership of MCOA

David Stevens
Executive Director

Cc: Secretary Mike Festa
Barbara Farnsworth, Hingham COA

Inserts

MAMHC Registration

Alz Event registration

Stand Alone RX