

MCOA News

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

Notes from the Executive Director: Early July 2009

Please Circulate to Your Staff

Enclosed in This Mailing:

- **Governor Patrick appoints Ann Hartstein as EOEA Secretary**
- **Membership News: Dues increase and Planning Tools for FY10**
- **Legislative Alert: Governor signs FY10 Budget = \$7/elder/YEAR**
- **Legislative Alert: MCOA Supports Certain Overrides of Governor's Vetos**
- **Instructions for the Thank You Campaign**
- **Tax Work Off Update**
- **Federal Legislation: Action Needed**
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- **2009 Fall Confernece: October 7-9 at the Sturbridge Host**
- **2009 Awards - Call for Nominations**
- **Update from Project Bread**
- **Regular Features Include: Member Requests, Resources You Can Use & UpComing Events**
- **MCOA is Going Paperless**

GOVERNOR PATRICK APPOINTS NEW SECRETARY OF ELDER AFFAIRS

BOSTON – Monday, June 1, 2009 — Governor Patrick today announced he has appointed Ann L. Hartstein as the new Secretary of Elder Affairs. She will begin her duties on July 1. Ms. Hartstein will oversee the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, which promotes the independence and well-being of Massachusetts’ elders, and supports elders and their families in need of social and other supportive services. Elder Affairs maintains a continuum of services responsive to the needs of its constituents, their families and caregivers.

“I am proud to announce the appointment of Ann Hartstein and look forward to working with her to provide the supports our elders and their families need,” said Governor Patrick. “Secretary Hartstein’s expertise and long-standing commitment to the elder community will serve Massachusetts’ seniors well.”

For the past five years, Ms. Hartstein has served as Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of Older Americans. Ms. Hartstein returns to the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, having first served as Director of Special Projects and then as Assistant Secretary for Policy and Program Development between 1998 and 2004, during which time she received the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Citation for Outstanding Performance award.

“We are excited to have Secretary Hartstein at Elder Affairs to lead the agency in serving seniors across the Commonwealth, especially during this challenging economic time,” said Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. JudyAnn Bigby. “Her leadership and in-depth knowledge will ensure that we are successful in our continued efforts to support healthy aging and to serve Massachusetts’ elders.”

Ms. Hartstein has been a strong advocate for the elder community for over 30 years. In both 2003 and 2008, she was named as the “Advocate of the Year” by the Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging and Senior Center Directors, and received the Manuel Carballo Award for Excellence in Public Service as a member of the Prescription Advantage Development Team in 2001. In 2009, she received the Betsy Ross Fliegel Award for Social Policy and Change from the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

“I am thrilled to join the Governor and Secretary Bigby in insuring that elders have what they need to live, work and play in the Commonwealth,” Hartstein said. “Aging is a lifelong process and I look forward to working with the Governor and Secretary Bigby to make sure that all older residents— whether retired or working, healthy or ill, old or young—have every opportunity to live and age well in the Commonwealth.”

Ms. Hartstein holds a Master of Science degree from the University of Massachusetts in Gerontology, as well as a Masters in Management of Human Services from Brandeis University.

An Extraordinary Choice

Governor Patrick and Secretary Bigby have just announced that Ann Hartstein has been appointed the next Secretary of Elder Affairs. Ann has an extraordinary background including a tenure as the:

- **Executive Director of the Needham Council on Aging,**
- **Assistant Secretary of Elder Affairs under Secretary Lillian Glickman, and most recently as the**
- **Executive Director of the Massachusetts Association of Older Americans.**

Ann will officially begin her duties on or about July 1, 2009.

“Governor Patrick’s and Secretary Bigby’s choice of Ann Hartstein is extraordinary. She brings to the fifth floor a background in both policy development and commitment to a strong eldercare network honed on the front lines. Ann is well known and respected by elected officials and elder advocates. Older adults across the Commonwealth are truly fortunate that the next Secretary of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs will be Ann Hartstein.”

David P. Stevens

Executive Director, Massachusetts Councils on Aging

Membership News

MCOA's 2009 Fall Conference — 7-9 October 2009 at Sturbridge Host

MCOA's 2009 Fall Conference will be held at the Sturbridge Host and Conference Center in Sturbridge Massachusetts. We maintain our standard de facto rolling submission deadline for workshop proposals, which means "Please submit your Presentation proposal ASAP." — Thanks, P. Kubaska.

Please see MCOA's website at www.mcoaonline.com for all the information and forms you need.

Sturbridge Host Reservation Form: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/pdf/Sturbridge-Host-Registration-Form-2009.pdf> (Send directly to them.)

Sponsor and Exhibitor Information Packet: <http://www.mcoaonline.com/content/pdf/MCOA-2009-Sponsor-Exhibitor-Packet.pdf>

The Conference Registration Packet will be posted by July 15, 2009 at www.mcoaonline.com. Hard copies available on request by calling 413.527.6425

MCOA Membership: Fiscal Planning for FY10

As members make final plans for their FY10 Local Budgets and write their Formula Grants, the Advisory Council asked for some planning estimates:

- **FY10 Dues** Increase by \$0.01/elder- see chart below
- Fall Conference- Plan for similar costs to last year 3 day package/ \$350 includes reception and annual dinner; \$115/day; reception \$20; and Annual dinner \$50. **Hotel = \$112/night Form Enclosed**
- **Membership (4x), Outreach(2x) Volunteer(2x), Program (1x) meetings** \$20/lunch \$10w/o
- **Advisory (4x), Board (4x)** \$10- no lunch option. Supportive Day (6x) \$0

MCOA can accommodate those who wish to pay early for any of these items. Send Hotel form directly to them.

MCOA Membership Reaffirms Vote to Increase Dues Effective July 1, 2009

Reminder: After a careful review and debate, MCOA's Membership voted on June 19, 2009 to reaffirm last June's (2008) vote to increase dues beginning July 1, 2009. The table below details the specifics. We expect to mail the FY10 Dues Notice by mid-month and prompt payment will help MCOA with cash flow.

Size of Town's Elder Population	Total # COAs	FY99	FY07 thru Current	FY09	Maximum Increase For COAs In this row in FY09	Approved FY10	Maximum Increase For COAs In this row in FY10	Total Increase over 2 years Proposed	Formula Grant Projected \$0.50/elder Increase Beginning July 1, 2009
0-500	76	\$80/year	\$100/year	\$110	\$10	\$125	\$15	\$25	\$200
500-1000	51	\$90/year	\$110/year	\$120	\$10	\$135	\$15	\$25	Range \$250-500
1001-10999	203	0.10/elder	0.12/elder	0.13/elder	Range \$10-110	0.14/elder	Range \$10-110	Range \$20-220	Range \$500-5050
11,000-13,999	Framingham Chicopee Medford Barnstable Cambridge	1125/year	1350/	1475	125	1600	125	\$250	F=5593.50 C=5942.50 M=5964.50 B=5976.50 C=6067.50
14,000-14,999	Lynn Brockton Lowell	1225/year	1475	1600	125	1725	125	\$250	Ly=7203.5 B=7233 Lo=7243
15,000-19,999	Newton Quincy Fall River New Bedford	1325/year	1590	1725	135	1900	125	\$260	N=7960.50 Q=8969 FR=9439.50 NB=9581
20,000-35,999	Springfield & Worcester	1400/year	1680	1800	120	2000	200	\$320	Spfld \$11,823.50 Worcester \$15,026
36,000+	Boston	1500/year	1800	2000	200	2500	500	\$700	\$39,812

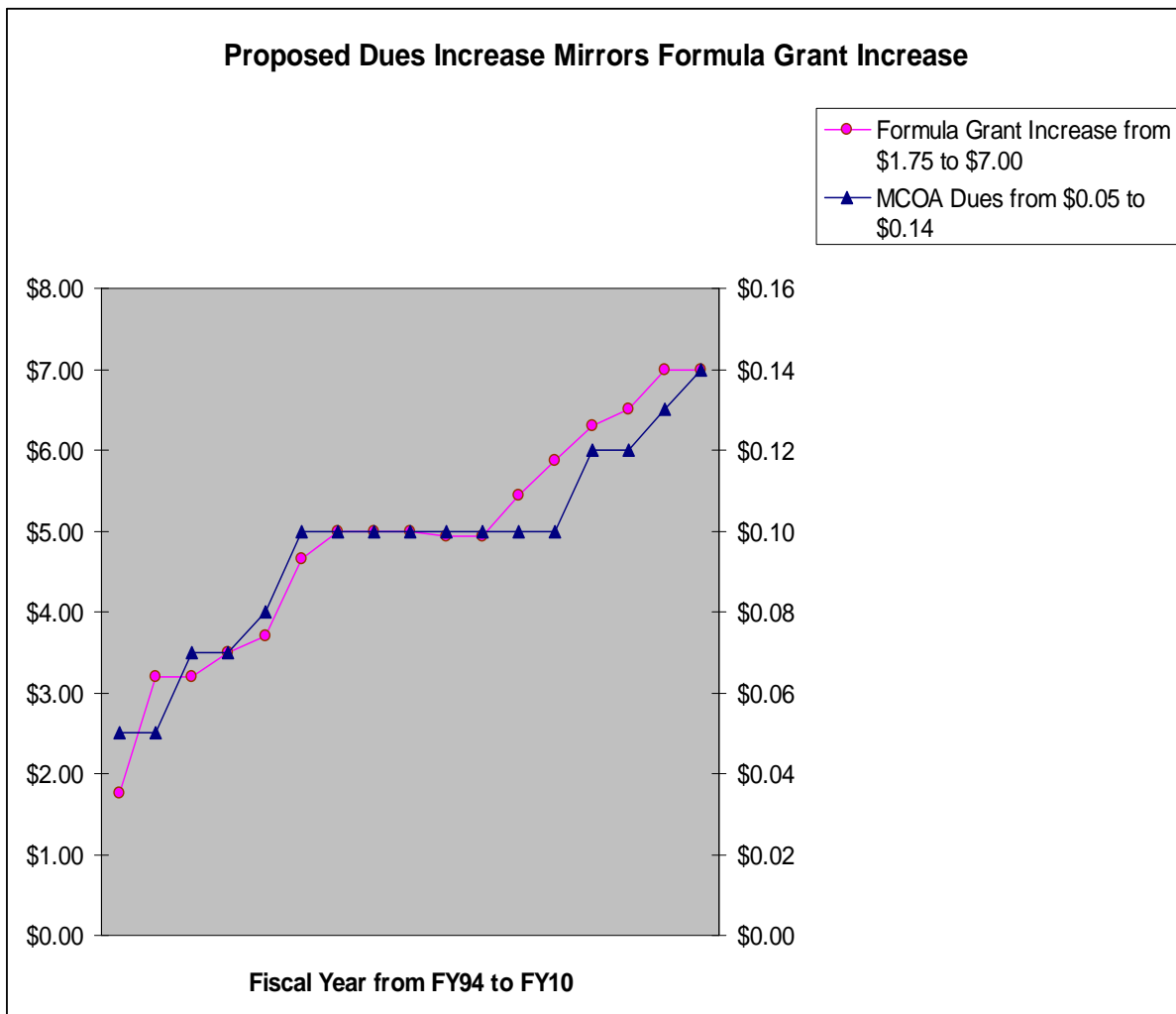
Membership News (continued)

Examples of Impact of Increase:

- A Small COA with 500 elders or less will see an increase of \$200 from the Formula Grant and an increase of \$25 in dues.
- A COA with around 1000 seniors will see an increase of \$500 in Formula and we are asking for an additional \$25 dues.
- The Median COA with 3250 elders will realize a \$1625 increase in Formula and a \$65 increase in dues.
- A COA with 10,000 elders will receive an additional \$5000 in Formula and will be asked to pay an additional \$200 in dues.

MCOA Dues History

Fiscal Year	MCOA Dues	Formula Grant	Minimum for Small COAs
FY99	\$0.10	\$4.65/elder/YEAR	\$2400
FY07	\$0.12	\$6.30/elder/YEAR	\$3200
FY09	\$0.13	\$6.50/elder/year	\$3500
FY10	\$0.14 <i>approved</i>	\$7.00/elder/year projected	\$3500



Legislative Update: Governor signs budget = FY2010 GAA = \$7/elder

June 29, 2009: Governor Patrick signed the FY10 budget and vetoed two line items relevant to the Eldercare Network*. Details can be found at http://www.mass.gov/bb/gaa/fy2010/app_10/dpt_10/held.htm. The legislature can override any of his vetoes under two conditions: The process must start in the House; and both chambers must override the Governor by a two-thirds vote of its membership.

FY 2010 Budget Request (in Millions)	FY 2009	FY 2009 9c cuts Oct 08/Jan 09	FY 2010 House 1 Governor	FY 2010 House Final	FY2010 Senate Final	FY2010 Conference Report	FY2010 GAA(Governor Sign/ Veto)
1599-6901 Salary Reserve	\$ 23.0	\$ 23.0	\$0	\$ 0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4000-0600 LTC Options screening *	\$.270	\$.270		\$ 2.5	\$0	\$2.5	\$0*earmark LTC Screening language vetoed Also PNA Language vetoed (see below)
4000-0500 Managed Care			\$2,489.337	\$	---	\$0	\$0
4000-0700 Fee for Service			\$3,361.041	\$	---	\$0	\$0
4000-0640 NF Bed tax	\$288.5	\$288.5		\$288.5	\$288.5	\$288.5	\$288.5
9110-0100 EOEAdmin	\$ 3.741	\$ 3.641	\$ 2.1434	\$ 2.120	\$ 2.404	\$ 2.120	\$ 2.120
9110-1455 Rx Adv	\$ 7.533	\$ 50.633	\$45.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 40	\$40	\$40
9110-1500 ECOP	\$ 48.199	\$ 48.199	\$ 47.7	\$ 48.199	See 1555	\$45.789	\$45.789
9110-1630 purchased serv.	\$106.716	\$102.747	\$105.8	\$ 103.73	See 1555	\$100.3	\$100.3
9110-1633 CM & ASAP operations *	\$ 40.368	\$ 37.568	\$ 38.6	\$ 37.568	See 1555	\$37.568	\$36.068*
9110-1640 Mental Health	\$.225	\$.125		\$.125	\$ 0	\$0	\$0
9110-1650 Family Caregivers	\$.250	\$ 0		\$ 0	\$ 0	\$0	\$0
9110-1900 Meals on Wheels	\$ 6.804	\$ 6.602	\$ 6.3	\$ 6.364	See 1555	\$ 6.279	\$ 6.279
9110-1555 HCC Programs	\$202.978	\$195.116	\$198.4	\$195.861	\$189.694	See above	See above
9110-1604 Supportive Housing	\$ 4.203	\$ 4.153	\$ 6.361	\$ 4.153	See 1800	\$4.014	\$4.014
9110-1660 Congregate Housing	\$ 2.789	\$ 2.161		\$ 2.123	See 1800	\$1.503	\$1.503
9110-1700 Homeless	\$.450	\$.153		\$.136	See 1800	\$0.136	\$0.136
9110-1800 Housing Prog/Homeless	\$ 7.442	\$ 6.467	\$ 6.361	\$ 6.412	\$ 5.518	See above	See above
9110-1636 protective services	\$ 16.246	\$ 16.246	\$ 16.2525	\$ 16.252	\$16.252	\$16.252	\$16.252
9110-9002 COAs	\$ 8.615	\$ 7.543	\$ 8.615	\$ 8.615	\$ 8.615	\$ 8.615	\$ 8.615

Formula Grant FY10: Thus, we begin FY2010 with the anticipation that the COA Formula Grant will be set at \$7/elder. As described by Elder Affairs, there will be two payments (as last year); the first \$3.50/elder payment coming before Labor Day and the second is scheduled for late fall. The second payment will be adjusted by subtracting any balance from your FY09 Formula Grants. **MCOA Cautions:** The main reason Governor Patrick and the Legislature have tried to maintain funding at the \$7/elder level is because they recognize that **Local Aide to cities and towns in the FY10 budget was cut by 15%** and this will have a disproportional effect on municipal COAs. The Formula Grant in some cases may be the stabilizing fund, which keeps core COA services intact. **However, if revenues continue to decline into FY10** the Governor will have to make further cuts ('9c') and Line Item#9110-9002 (Local Aide to COAs) may be a target. MCOA strongly suggests caution as we move forward. This first 9c opportunity will be October 15th, followed by January 15th.

Legislative Update: FY10 Veto Overrides: MCOA encourages the Legislature to consider overriding the Governor's vetoes in the following areas. We ask our members to contact their Representatives and Senators.

1. Home Care Case Management

To: Advocates Fr: Al Norman

PLEASE TRY GOING TO WWW.MASSHOMECARE.ORG AND USING OUR E-LERT SYSTEM EMAIL LAWMAKERS TODAY TO OVERRIDE THE GOVERNOR'S CUT TO HOME CARE FOR SENIORS!

Click on the mailbag photo, and send an email to YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE AND YOUR STATE SENATOR from **our website**. Just follow the instructions there by clicking on the most recent Elert posted. I just tried it to test, and the system is working fine. (If you ever get an error message, please report it to me). The message about the \$1.5 M cut to home care case management is there, you just have to fill in the blanks, select your lawmakers, and send it. It will take no more than 3 minutes.

2. The following letter was sent to House Leadership asking to override the Governor's veto of the Personal Need Allowance (PNA) for Nursing Home Residents

Speaker Robert DeLeo, House of Representatives, State House Room 243
Chairman Charles Murphy, House Committee on Ways & Means, State House Room 356
Re: FY 2010 Veto of language in line item 4000-0600

Dear Speaker DeLeo and Chairman Murphy:

We are writing to ask that you take up for override Governor Patrick's veto of the MassHealth Personal Needs Allowance for nursing home and rest home residents. The vetoed language maintains the PNA at its current monthly level of \$72.80. **When an elderly or disabled individual enters a nursing home or rest home and is eligible for MassHealth, he or she is entitled to retain a certain monthly income to cover personal expenses. This amount, referred to as the "personal needs allowance" or PNA, must pay for all expenses not included in the MassHealth payment rate. This includes items such as clothing, shoes, haircuts, telephone calls, stamps and other necessities of daily life. In the Fiscal Year 1991, Budget the PNA was reduced from \$72.80 to \$60, where it remained until its restoration in the FY2008 and FY2009 budgets.**

It is obvious from the Governor's veto that without protective language in the budget the PNA will be subject to efforts to reduce it. Even in these difficult economic times it is very troubling that the Administration would reduce the minimal amount of money allocated to nursing home and rest home residents for their personal needs. The savings accomplished by such a cut are insignificant for the state and devastating for affected individuals. We urge you to take up for override Governor Patrick's veto.

Please contact Deborah Thomson at (978) 337-7315 if you need more information about this issue. Thank you for your ongoing concern for elderly and disabled individuals.

Sincerely, Deborah Thomson, The PASS Group

Also signed by representatives from MAOA, MSAC, Mass Home Care, NASW-MA, National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys-Mass Chapter, Greater Boston Elderly Legal Services, Mass Law Reform Institute, Greater Lowell Mental Health Collaborative, LTC Ombudsman Program-SeniorCare, Inc., LTC Ombudsman Program-WestMass Elder Care, Mass Advocates for Nursing Home Reform, Cape United Elderly, and Massachusetts Councils on Aging.

-Fact Sheet- (Line item 4000-0600)

Please Support an Override of Governor Patrick's Veto of the Nursing Home Personal Needs Allowance

Governor Patrick has vetoed language in the FY2010 budget protecting the MassHealth Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) for nursing home and rest home residents. The vetoed language maintains the PNA at its current monthly level of \$72.80.

Why is the PNA necessary? When an elderly or disabled individual enters a nursing home or rest home and is eligible for MassHealth, he or she is entitled to retain a certain monthly income to cover personal expenses. This amount, referred to as the "personal needs allowance" or PNA, must pay for all expenses not included in the MassHealth payment rate. This includes items such as clothing, shoes, haircuts, telephone calls, stamps and other necessities of daily life. In the Fiscal Year 1991 Budget the PNA was reduced from \$72.80 to \$60, where it remained until its restoration in the FY2008 and FY2009 budgets.

Without protective language in the budget, the PNA will surely be reduced. Even in these difficult economic times it is very troubling that the Administration would reduce the minimal amount of money allocated to nursing home and rest home residents for their personal needs. The savings accomplished by such a cut are insignificant for the state and devastating for affected individuals. Please contact Speaker DeLeo and Chairman Murphy and voice your support for a veto override. For more information contact Deborah Thomson at The PASS Group, (978) 337-7315.

Vetoed language in 4000-0600: *"Provided further, that notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, funds shall be expended from this item for the purpose of maintaining a personal needs allowance of \$72.80 per month for individuals residing in nursing homes and rest homes who are eligible for MassHealth, Emergency Aid to the Elderly Disabled and Children program or Supplemental Security income"*



AARP Massachusetts T 1-866-448-3621
One Beacon Street F 617-723-4224
Suite 2301 TTY 1-877-434-7598
Boston, MA 02108 www.aarp.org/ma

July 2, 2009

The Honorable Robert DeLeo
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House, Room 356
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Therese Murray
Senate President
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House, Room 332
Boston, MA 02133

RE: **Fiscal Year 2010 Budget
Override of Governor Patrick's Vetoes**

Dear Speaker DeLeo and Senate President Murray:

AARP knows the Commonwealth is facing our worst fiscal challenges in decades. On behalf of our 860,000 members in Massachusetts, AARP urges you to protect critical programs and services for vulnerable older residents in the Commonwealth.

4000-0600 MassHealth Personal Needs Allowance

Governor Patrick eliminated language that maintains the Personal Needs Allowance for the most frail and vulnerable individuals who reside in nursing homes and rest homes at the current monthly level of \$72.80. *For Fiscal Year 2010, AARP urges you to override Governor Patrick's veto and restore the Personal Needs Allowance for nursing home and rest home residents to \$72.80 per month.*

4510-0716: Academic Detailing Program

Governor Patrick eliminates funding for the Academic Detailing program. This program is designed to provide health care professionals with timely, unbiased, evidence-based data about prescription drugs. *For Fiscal Year 2010, AARP urges you to override Governor Patrick's veto and restore \$250,000 funding to operate the program.*

Outside Section 121, Attachment L: Commonwealth Care Legal Immigrant Eligibility

Governor Patrick provides language to maintain eligibility in Commonwealth Care for special status legal immigrants. Currently, there are 28,000 individuals who will be impacted by changes to eligibility. Without coverage and access to primary and preventative care, these people may ultimately use more expensive care. *For Fiscal Year 2010, AARP urges you to adopt Attachment L and restore eligibility for legal immigrants in the Commonwealth Care program.*

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Jennie Chin Hansen, President
Addison Barry Rand, Chief Executive Officer

Outside Section 129: MassHealth Outreach Enrollment Grants

Governor Patrick eliminated language for MassHealth Outreach Enrollment Grants. Outreach grants are intended to educate residents and assist in enrolling them in health care insurance coverage. *For Fiscal Year 2010, AARP urges you to override Governor Patrick's veto and restore funding for MassHealth Outreach Enrollment Grants.*

We urge you to preserve these crucial programs and services for the residents of the Commonwealth.

Very truly yours,

Deborah E. Banda
State Director

Linda F. Fitzgerald
State President

Cc: Members of the Massachusetts General Court

Local aid cuts close to what towns expected

By David Riley/Daily News staff *Posted Jul 05, 2009 @ 10:38 PM*

Town and city officials are smarting from local aid cuts in the state budget Gov. Deval Patrick signed last week, but the reductions fall close to what many anticipated. The final spending plan slices unrestricted local aid about 29 percent, or \$377 million, from the beginning of last fiscal year, says the Mass. Municipal Association. Despite a roller coaster of shifting aid estimates in the budget process, several town managers said the final figures are close to their projections, albeit not exact. Most towns and cities already pared their budgets, and the finished spending plan will mean few major changes.

In Ashland, for example, the town will get \$39,000 less than budgeted at Town Meeting in May. Milford, it appears, comes out \$189,000 ahead. Holliston, which anticipated a 15 percent cut in overall aid, lost about 9 percent. "Generally speaking, that ended up being a significant decrease for Holliston," Town Administrator Paul LeBeau said. "But we kind of knew that right off the bat when the budget process started."

No town was spared from cuts. For example, Framingham saw about \$4 million in unrestricted local aid and other general government assistance disappear, from \$13.8 million down to \$9.7 million, according to the Department of Revenue. Franklin lost a little more than \$1 million of the same revenues, from \$3.6 million to \$2.5 million.

Municipal leaders remain worried that state revenues will continue to plummet, meaning an even more difficult budget season next year, after many towns have already cut jobs, spent reserves and asked employees to sacrifice. Some also worry the governor could be forced to make another round of midyear budget cuts. He did so twice last fiscal year. A new fiscal year started Wednesday. "Is this the end? Is this the bottom of what we're seeing?" said Ashland Town Manager John Petrin. "I think that's the bigger concern people are feeling now."

No community escaped aid cuts. Patrick signed off on the Legislature's appropriations for the biggest sources of state aid for cities and towns. But the Mass. Municipal Association said Patrick reduced several smaller accounts, such as a \$2.25 million cut for regional library aid and \$1 million from the special education "circuit breaker" program.

Towns are also still trying to make sense of federal stimulus funding promised for education, when it might arrive and how much to expect. "At least the number for Holliston has been all over the place," LeBeau said. In Milford, Town Administrator Louis Celozzi said his town received a \$1.4 million check for stimulus funding at the end of last fiscal year, but none of about \$1.4 million expected in Chapter 70 aid. He said Rep. John Fernandes, D-Milford, is working on the town's behalf to find out how the stimulus money factors into the local budget.

"It seems to be a wash," he said. "There's just no clarity on the stimulus money as of yet."

Major cuts to the Quinn Bill, which gives pay incentives for police officers to earn college degrees, took \$100,000 more from Southborough's pocketbooks than anticipated, Town Administrator Jean Kitchen said. The police contract does not require the town to make up the state cut, she said, but town officials will sit down with the police union.

"This year, we're going to make it," Kitchen said.

Legislative Update: continued

Thank you Campaign

In a year like this it is critically important to publicly thank your legislators and the Governor for their support of Line Item #9110-9002 – Local Aide to Councils on Aging. This is the time to:

- Conduct a thank you letter writing campaign party at your senior center;
- Invite your legislators to your summer picnic or ice cream socials and publicly thank them;
- Add a feature article in your summer/fall newsletter thanking all involved and stating how the formula grant is spent in your town;
- Send a letter to the editor of your local paper thanking and detailing how the grant will be spent;
- During the public comment period of your Selectboard meeting, stand up and speak out- publicly thanking all involved;
- If you operate a cable show, ask your legislators to be a guest and talk about the difficult budget year and then publicly thank them for their efforts;
- Produce a 'big check' with your Formula Grant amount on it and stage a photo op for the local newspaper with your legislators. Put the picture in your monthly newsletter
- If you have a town chat room, make sure you mention your gratitude on it;
- Have your board send a thank you note sign by all; **and/or**
- Collect signatures on a petition saying thank-you

Massachusetts is better off than many other States:

Another reason to be grateful to our Governor and our legislature is that they finished on time. Yes, they had to make some difficult choices and yes they had to raise taxes but overall the budget is balanced and completed on time. Unlike:

[The Huffington Post](#) July 1, 2009

[California Misses Deadline, May Now Have To Issue IOUs](#)

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Legislators in more than a half-dozen states, their revenues evaporating in the recession, frantically worked to stave off government shutdowns and devastating service cuts. California failed to meet a midnight deadline and now may need to issue IOUs instead of paying bills. Across the country, lawmakers were feeling the heat as their legislatures began the new fiscal year without a budget in place.

Overrides Pass

In the waning days of FY09, several communities passed overrides that will help keep senior centers open and staffed. Congrats to Northampton, Pepperell, Rockland and Winthrop!

WINTHROP: Voters OK eight of 10 overrides

We need to know: 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 and Jayne Colino/ Newton jcolino@newtonma.gov

We also need a copy sent to Peter@mcoonline.com

Legislative Update: continued

Update Tax Work Off Program: Raises Limit from \$750 to \$1000

This is to inform you that the Property Tax Work-off Program abatement is now allowable up to \$1,000 (by local option). This means that your town/city may require a warrant article for passage at Town Meeting, or see the text for town council/city council requirements.

Pasted below and at the following links, you will find the text for the Outside Section 24 in the 2010 state budget. Senator Creem's bills have not yet been voted on; however, the section regarding the work-off program was added as an amendment and is now law, according to Sen. Creem's office.

See below for the text of the amendment.

http://www.mass.gov/bb/gaa/fy2010/os_10/h24.htm

<http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/mgl/59-5k.htm>

PART I. ADMINISTRATION OF THE GOVERNMENT
TITLE IX. TAXATION CHAPTER 59. ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL TAXES
PERSONS AND PROPERTY EXEMPT FROM TAXATION

Chapter 59: Section 5K. Property tax liability reduced in exchange for volunteer services; persons over age 60
Section 5K. In any city or town which accepts the provisions of this section, the board of selectmen of a town or in a municipality having a town council form of government, the town council or the mayor with the approval of the city council in a city may establish a program to allow persons over the age of 60 to volunteer to provide services to such city or town. In exchange for such volunteer services, the city or town shall reduce the real property tax obligations of such person over the age of 60 on his tax bills and any reduction so provided shall be in addition to any exemption or abatement to which any such person is otherwise entitled and no such person shall receive a rate of, or be credited with, more than the current minimum wage of the commonwealth per hour for services provided pursuant to such reduction nor shall the reduction of the real property tax bill exceed \$750 in a given tax year. It shall be the responsibility of the city or town to maintain a record for each taxpayer including, but not limited to, the number of hours of service and the total amount by which the real property tax has been reduced and to provide a copy of such record to the assessor in order that the actual tax bill reflect the reduced rate. A copy of such record shall also be provided to the taxpayer prior to the issuance of the actual tax bill. Such cities and towns shall have the power to create local rules and procedures for implementing this section in any way consistent with the intent of this section.

In no instance shall the amount by which a person's property tax liability is reduced in exchange for the provision of services be considered income, wages, or employment for purposes of taxation as provided in chapter 62, for the purposes of withholding taxes as provided in chapter 62B, for the purposes of workers' compensation as provided in chapter 152 or any other applicable provisions of the General Laws, but such person while providing such services shall be considered a public employee for the purposes of chapter 258, but such services shall be deemed employment for the purposes of unemployment insurance as provided in chapter 151A.

MCOA Legislative Alert: Federal – We Need Other MA Co-Sponsors & Out-of-state Co-sponsors for 2 bills:

- H.R. 2208 that would exempt seniors from reporting as income their abatement earned under the work-off program
- H.R. 2145 Windfall Elimination Provision relief Act of 2009

Call Your U.S. Representative Today (and call your friends/relatives *out of state*) and ask them to sign on to Cong. Barney Frank’s bills

- Cong. Barney Frank re-filed this bill (2208) which was initially requested by MCOA Property Tax Relief Task Force.
- The original H.R. 5484 was introduced 2/25/08 and referred to House Ways and Means, but, to date; had at least two co-sponsors (Tsongas and Lynch) but never went anywhere.
- Cong. Tsongas has signed on to 2208.
- The bill would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from income and employment taxes real property tax abatements for seniors and disabled individuals in exchange for services.
- Background: Previously, Cong. Frank’s office reported that Connecticut has abatement for “First Responders” and similar legislation was filed and passed for that group exempting them from reporting the abatement.

We would also like to see support for his newly filed H.R. 2145: Windfall Elimination Provision relief Act of 2009

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to restrict the application of the windfall elimination provision to individuals whose combined monthly income from benefits under such title and other monthly periodic payments exceeds a minimum COLA-adjusted amount of \$2,500 and to provide for a graduated implementation of such provision on amounts above such minimum amount.

MCOA Legislative Update: Saving Driving Coalition- Several Updates

There has been extensive activity on Beacon Hill about the need to do something ‘about older drivers’ because of recent news reports about automobile accidents involving drivers over the age of seventy. Several pieces of legislation have been reviewed at public hearings and consensus may be forming around Rep Kahn’s bill HB2241.

MCOA belongs to the SAFE ROADS COALITION which opposes setting an arbitrary age for testing because studies indicate that ‘solution’ is simplistic and ineffective. We do support a more comprehensive solution that has 14 major recommendations. The attached letter from the Coalition details these recommendations:

MCOA share the concerns of some (Transportation Chairs Baddour & Wagner –see attached article) on the Sen. Joyce bill that sets an arbitrary age, because it misses the point that we all age at different times. Unlike kids who mature (mentally/physically specifically- coordination) within a 5-7 year period; the abilities of older adults can vary greatly from age 50 to age 100. We all know at our centers a ninety year old who is in better shape than a 60 year old participant. Medical reporting is one solution-see the rest of the list.

Personal Concern- "An older driver may lose their license but that may not stop them from driving...we need to develop a adequate transportation infrastructure that encourages older drivers to voluntarily give up their cars and provides reliable transport for medical, shopping, religious, and social (visiting spouse/friend in hospital) needs." David P. Stevens, Executive Director, MCOA

See the next 4 pages form information you can use and post. Your feedback is always welcome!

SAFE ROADS NOW!

A group of organizations and individuals working together to make the roads safe for everyone.

Contact Information:

Jessica Costantino
AARP Massachusetts
One Beacon Street, Suite 2301
Boston, MA 02108
617.305.0538
jcostantino@aarp.org

AAA Southern New England

AARP Massachusetts

Alzheimer's Association
Massachusetts/New Hampshire
Chapter

Massachusetts Association of Councils
on Aging and Senior Center Directors

Jon Bailey, TRIAD Officer
Waltham Police

Juergen Bludau, MD

Elizabeth Dugan, PhD
Associate Professor, Gerontology
University of Massachusetts Boston
Author of *The Driving Dilemma: The
Complete Resource for Older Drivers
and Their Families*

Lissa Kapust
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Drive Wise Program

Massachusetts Association of Older
Americans

Massachusetts Medical Society

Massachusetts Silver Legislature

Margaret O'Connor
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
Drive Wise Program

Nina M. Silverstein, PhD
Professor of Gerontology
University of Massachusetts Boston

Robert Stern, PhD
Associate Professor of Neurology
Boston University School of Medicine

Senior Mobility Initiative on Cape Cod

June 18, 2009

RE: Road Safety and Driver Retesting

Dear Legislator:

Safe Roads Now is a broad and varied group of stakeholders that have come together and are committed to working with you and other policy makers to achieve the goal of safe roads for everyone.

We would like to see a new law in place that truly corrects deficiencies in the current system as soon as possible. We recommend a performance-based approach to setting standards for driver licensing that incorporates two types of evidence: 1) linking a medical condition or functional impairment to impaired driving and/or increased crash risk; and 2) demonstrates the effectiveness of licensing practices or standards in improving performance and/or lowering crash risk. In addition, we are cognizant that this effort will require significant resources, both financial and human, and we urge you and other legislators to fund the necessary reforms.

We propose the following components be incorporated:

- In-person renewal, throughout a driver's career;
- Implementing a screening test to address issues such as visual contrast sensitivity; visual acuity; periphery vision; divided attention; and processing speed;
- Implementing a tiered system whereby a driver would need to take additional testing should they fail the initial testing components and ultimately may need to take a road test. The first two tiers could consist of non-driving assessment tools (e.g., driving knowledge test, vision tests, and observation of obvious physical limitations). Applicants failing both tiers would be required to pass an on-road driving test to renew their licenses;
- Additional training for law enforcement as they are often the first to encounter an unsafe driver;
- Additional training for Registry of Motor Vehicle personnel;
- Strengthening medical advisory board roles;
- Voluntary reporting by health care providers and immunity;
- Long Term Driver Ombudsman;
- Implementing a trigger system (ex – several accidents within a few months – need to go into the Registry of Motor Vehicles for an in-person exam);

- Continuing education and/or retraining programs for those who face losing their license;
- Implementing the recommendations of the Federal Highway Administration to improve traffic signs and signals, pavement markings, and other roadway enhancements;
- Conducting a pilot program that includes accident review and assessment – modeled on existing successful programs such as one utilized by the Waltham Police;
- Improving the transportation and community mobility alternatives for those who cannot or chose not to drive; and
- Non-mandatory, continuing education for physicians and health providers on changes in our state laws related to this issue.

There are currently several bills addressing road safety, driver retesting and driver impairment pending in the Massachusetts legislature. We urge you to take action now and pass a comprehensive bill that incorporates the above-mentioned components. At a minimum, we urge you to pass Senate Bill No. 1900, An Act Relative to Driver Impairment, sponsored by Senator Buoniconti and House Bill No. 2241, An Act Relative to Impaired Drivers, sponsored by Representative Khan, into law now.

Please contact Jessica Costantino, Director of Advocacy, AARP Massachusetts, at 617.305.0538 or jcostantino@aarp.org if you have any questions or concerns.

Very truly yours,

Charles T. Alagero, Esq.
Vice President and General Council
Massachusetts Medical Society

Jon Bailey, TRIAD Officer
Waltham Police

Deborah E. Banda, State Director
AARP Massachusetts

Elizabeth Dugan, PhD, Associate Professor, Gerontology
McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies
University of Massachusetts Boston
Author, *The Driving Dilemma: The Complete Resource Guide for Older Drivers and Their Families*

Gerald Flaherty, Vice President, Medical & Scientific Programs
Alzheimer's Association, Massachusetts/New Hampshire Chapter

Robert Green, President
Massachusetts Association of Older Americans

Sally M. Hoyt, Senate President
Massachusetts Silver Legislature

Lissa Robins Kapust, LICSW
Program Coordinator, DriveWise
Behavioral Neurology Unit
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Mary M. Maguire, Director
Public and Legislative Affairs
AAA Southern New England

Margaret O'Connor
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Drive Wise Program

Nina M. Silverstein, PhD, Professor of Gerontology
University of Massachusetts Boston

Warren Smith, Chair
Senior Mobility Initiative on Cape Cod (SMICC)

Robert Stern, PhD, Associate Professor of Neurology
Co-Director, Alzheimer's Disease Clinical and Research Program
Boston University School of Medicine

David P. Stevens, Executive Director
Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging and Senior Center Directors

Cc: The Honorable Deval Patrick, Governor
Ellie Shea-Delaney, Interim Secretary, Executive Office of Elder Affairs
Rachel Kaprielian, Registrar, Registry of Motor Vehicles

Lawrence Eagle Tribune Baddour: Bill on elderly motorists will pass this year

By Bill Kirk bkirk@eagletribune.com July 01, 2009 12:04 am

BOSTON — *State Sen. Steven Baddour, D-Methuen, chairman of the Legislature's Transportation Committee, said he is open to the idea of having physicians determine whether their elderly patients are able to drive. Baddour made his comment after sometimes emotional testimony before the committee yesterday by victims and survivors of accidents involving elderly drivers. Before a battery of cameras and a Statehouse hall filled with elderly and public safety advocates, Nayan Patel, uncle of 4-year-old Diya Patel of Stoughton, who was struck and killed by an 89-year-old earlier this month, told lawmakers that "condolences won't do anything." "People can actually do something about this," he said. "If this is avoidable, why shouldn't it be avoided?" Patel's story was one of several tragedies described at the hearing. One woman said her car was struck in the side by an elderly driver, forcing her into physical therapy for years. Another woman described how her father was struck and killed 23 years ago when an elderly driver drifted into the wrong lane. At least a half-dozen bills dealing with elderly drivers were brought before the committee yesterday, but consensus was elusive among the representatives and senators on the committee.*

Baddour said a comprehensive bill will come out of the committee by Labor Day, and should be approved by the Legislature within the calendar year. Sen. Brian Joyce, D-Milton, who proposed a bill to conduct driving tests for anyone 85 and older, made a plea to the committee to "do something." "This is the third time I've filed this bill," Joyce told The Eagle-Tribune after the hearing. "It's been around almost five years. The problem is only worsening as we have an aging population behind the wheel." He said that two days ago, an 86-year-old woman struck an elderly man in a crosswalk in Melrose. Yesterday, an 85-year-old hit an 11-year-old boy in Attleborough. "Almost daily, a potentially avoidable accident takes place in Massachusetts," he said. He said that his bill, and others, have been thwarted by elderly advocates such as AARP, which strongly opposes laws that are already on the books in many other communities. "The opposition from the AARP has been most unfortunate," he said. "They have taken the wrong approach. They think they are protecting their members, but many of their own members are most at risk."

Sen. Susan Tucker, D-Andover, who is not on the committee but offered her view on the issue, testified in favor of doing something both to stem the rising tide of accidents involving elderly drivers as well as something to help families coping with aging parents or grandparents who insist on keeping their car keys, even when they should have stopped driving long ago. "We have to do something by the end of this year," said Tucker. "I suggest we pass a law, then have a commission figure out the implementation." She said it's a complicated issue that needs to be dealt with on multiple levels, including help for families, and help for seniors who still need to be able to get around their communities. "We don't want seniors to feel like they are prisoners in their own homes," she said.

Baddour said the hearing was informative and emotional, but that what he took from it was that the issue is so complex that none of the bills before the committee would solve the problem. "What really stood out is that we need to have a comprehensive bill that addresses age, in-person license renewal at a certain age," Baddour said. He said Joyce's bill doesn't address the problem either. "The more people testified, the more they realized 85 doesn't solve this problem," he said. Many of the victims who testified related stories of being struck by drivers of all different ages, from 70 to 90 years old.

Rep. Joseph Wagner, D-Chicopee, cochairman of the Committee on Transportation, voiced an argument supported by the AARP, the Massachusetts Medical Society and other backers of a bill to permit doctors to report patients with cognitive disabilities to the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. Kay Khan, D-Newton, said such a process would help get impaired drivers of any age off the road. Khan noted that doctors who report their patients would be immune from litigation to prevent a chilling effect on such reporting.

Advocates for the elderly support this approach, arguing that setting an age to begin testing would be arbitrary and would unfairly strip older residents of their independence. (Material from the Statehouse News Service was included in this report.)



AARP Massachusetts T 1-866-448-362
One Beacon Street F 617-723-4224
Suite 2301 TTY 1-877-434-7591
Boston, MA 02108 www.aarp.org/

July 1, 2009

Letters to the Editor
The Eagle-Tribune
P.O. Box 100
Lawrence, MA 01842

To the editor:

In the Eagle-Tribune story, "Baddour: Bill on elderly motorists will pass this year," (July 1, 2009), AARP's position on pending legislation to improve road safety is misrepresented, stating we "oppose laws that are already on the books in many other communities." AARP strongly supports House Bill No. 2241, An Act Relative to Impaired Drivers, which was favorably released last week from the Public Safety Committee. The bill would improve medical reporting of unsafe drivers to the Registry of Motor Vehicles, and as seen in other states, help reduce crashes.

But, House Bill No. 2241 is only a first step. As part of the Safe Roads Now coalition of more than a dozen elder advocates, medical professionals, law enforcement, academics and others, AARP has called for a comprehensive solution to improve road safety that focuses on ability, not age. Safe Roads Now, and AARP, have recommended 14-points to achieve this goal, centered on in-person license renewals throughout a driver's lifetime, and new screening and testing that focuses on an individual's ability to drive. Identify those drivers with problems, and test them more frequently.

Today, people are living longer, healthier lives. The aging of our population will have wide-reaching impact on everything from health care, housing and work – to transportation. We need to fix the driver licensing system in Massachusetts to make the roads safer for everyone. And we need a comprehensive approach that provides alternative when driving is no longer the best option. When it comes to transportation policy, AARP's goal is to make the roads safer for everyone.

Sincerely,

Deborah Banda
State Director, AARP Massachusetts

Deborah Banda is the State Director of AARP Massachusetts, which represents more than 860,000 members age 50 and over in the commonwealth.

One Beacon Street, Suite 2301, Boston, MA 02108, 1-866-448-3621, www.aarp.org/ma

MCOA Awards 2009

A Call for Nominations

Submit your nomination and any supplemental material by September 4, 2009

- Nominate someone from a COA/Senior Center
MCOA Director of the Year,
whom you feel achieves, articulates, brings together, exemplifies by leadership in the field of aging as well 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 or service or a model that might help senior centers serve senior and their families according to need, compatible with dreams and adaptable in other communities.

Submit by September 4, 2009

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

MCOA 2008 Awards Nomination Form

I, _____ from _____

nominate _____ from _____ for the MCOA 's

_____ 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 tis individual or organization should be considered for this award you have specified.

Mail nomination to: MCOA 116 Pleasant Street, Room 306, Easthampton MA , 01027
or Fax to 413.527.7138 Thank you for you time with this matter.



June 19, 2009

Dear Friends:

Last June Project Bread asked the Massachusetts Councils on Aging to help spread the word about changes to the Food Stamp program. You did, and the response was unprecedented. Our FoodSource Hotline received thousands of calls from seniors, many of whom have since applied and been approved for benefits, and are now able to buy more of the foods that they need and enjoy.

We want to update you on some of the changes that have taken place since last June. For one thing, the name of the program has been changed from "Food Stamps" to the "Supplemental Food Assistance Program," or SNAP. This name change emphasizes that SNAP is a nutrition program that is meant to supplement the food budget for those of limited means.

Another change is that the benefits increased in April as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Those receiving the minimum benefit of \$14 received a slight increase to \$16, but those receiving a higher amount saw their benefits jump by \$24 for a household of one or \$44 for a household of two. This increase not only helps the recipient but also is money that goes right back into the economy.

The third change is that the income guidelines were increased in April as well. Many callers have specifically mentioned having income below the guideline of \$1,734. That guideline has been increased to \$1,805 for a household of one and \$2,429 for a household of two. Households with gross incomes below those amounts are not subject to an asset test (i.e. they will not be made ineligible due to their assets) however those with income-producing assets should understand that the income from the assets will be included in their total income.

It is important to note that income is only one factor in the SNAP calculation. We need information about some of their expenses, such as housing and medical expenses, to determine their eligibility for benefits.

We are attaching a chart, similar to the one we sent out last year, but with updated income guidelines. Although it is difficult to explain the SNAP guidelines on paper, our FoodSource Hotline counselors will take the time to explain the program and eligibility guidelines and answer any questions the callers may have. Please let people know that they can call the **FoodSource Hotline at 1-800-645-8333** for more information.

Thank you for your assistance.

FoodSource Hotline

Good News For Seniors
Help is Available to Beat the High Cost of Food
(Income Guidelines updated 4/1/2009)

If you are a low-income senior (age 60 or over), you may now qualify for food assistance through the SNAP/Food Stamp Program, even if you own a home or a car or have savings. Thanks to changes to the SNAP/Food Stamp Program, there is no asset limit for seniors whose incomes fall within certain guidelines (income from those assets may be counted); and other program improvements have increased benefits for thousands of households. **(Seniors whose incomes fall above the guidelines may still be eligible, but their assets will be considered).**

New Asset Rules for Senior/Disabled Households

Household Size	Monthly Gross Income	Assets
1	Below \$1,805	No Asset Limit
2	Below \$2,429	No Asset Limit

SNAP eligibility is based on income and certain expenses. To find out if you are eligible, call Project Bread's **FoodSource Hotline at 1-800-645-8333**.

- You will speak to a counselor (not a machine).
- The counselor will explain the SNAP/Food Stamp requirements and help you maximize your benefits by identifying medical and other deductions.
- Counselors can estimate your eligibility in just a few minutes.
- All calls are confidential.

You apply for SNAP/Food Stamps at your local Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA), but you are not required to apply in person. You can apply by mail or online and you can indicate your preference for a telephone interview. You can also mail or fax the documents that your worker requests.

FoodSource Hotline
1-800-645-8333
Monday - Friday: 8:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.
Saturday: 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
Call today!

MCOA Briefs: Upcoming Training

Methods, Models & Tools

An intensive week-long summer institute designed to help develop the competencies needed to facilitate consumer and family directed life planning

Limited seats are still available for **Methods, Models & Tools**, an intensive five-day summer institute presented by the UNH Institute on Disability and the Browne Center designed to help develop the competencies needed to facilitate consumer and family-directed life planning. The summer institute incorporates lecture, role-playing, action learning, and peer support to provide an interactive forum for participants to develop and practice effective group facilitation skills. The curriculum addresses theories of group development, offering experiential methods for process design, questioning and recording skills, and strategic planning. Models of situational leadership, team performance, conflict management and principled negotiation are translated to the context of person-centered futures planning.

Dates: July 15, 16, 17, 20, & 21, 2009

Time: 9 am to 4 pm

Location: [The Browne Center](#), 340 Dame Road, Durham, NH

Registration Fee: \$700

* \$50 per person discount available for groups of three or more.

* Includes breakfast and lunch on all 5 days, plus dinner on 7/15 and 7/20.

* Affordable overnight accommodations are available at UNH and in Durham. For more information, call 603.228.2084.

Instructors: [Patty Cotton, M.Ed.](#), Director, Innovation Facilitators, & [Pam McPhee, MSW](#), Director, The Browne Center

For more information and to register: Visit <http://www.iod.unh.edu/events.html#mmtsi> or call 603.228.2084

Methods, Models & Tools has been approved by the NH Chapter NASW for thirty (30) Category 1 Continuing Education Units for social workers.

This training is supported in part through a Person-Centered Planning Grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CFDA #93.779.

Questions about IOD professional development opportunities? Visit the IOD online at www.iod.unh.edu or e-mail contact.iod@unh.edu.

Please feel free to forward this message along to anyone who might be interested.

If you have received this message in error or if you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please reply to this message with the word "remove" in the subject line.

MCOA Briefs: Kathy J. Greenlee confirmed as US Asst. Secretary for Aging

The Administration on Aging (AoA) is proud to announce that on Thursday, June 25, 2009, Kathy J. Greenlee was unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate as Assistant Secretary for Aging at the Department of Health and Human Services. President Barack Obama nominated Ms. Greenlee for the position on May 4, 2009. Ms. Greenlee served as Kansas' Secretary of Aging, heading a cabinet-level agency whose mission is to promote the security, dignity and independence of Kansas seniors. KDOA is responsible for administration of Older Americans Act programs, distribution of Medicaid long-term care payments and regulation of nursing home licensure and survey processes. Greenlee had previously served as the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman in Kansas, as well as the state's Assistant Secretary of Aging, with the responsibilities of legislative liaison and chief budget officer. As Assistant Secretary of Aging, Greenlee served as general counsel at the Kansas Insurance Department (KID). During her tenure at KID, she led the team of regulators who evaluated the proposed sale of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Kansas. While there, she also oversaw the Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas program, more commonly known as SHICK. That program is now part of the Department on Aging. Kathy Greenlee recently served on the board of the National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA). NASUA represents the nation's 56 officially designated state and territorial agencies on aging. Ms. Greenlee is a graduate of the University of Kansas with degrees in business administration and law. Ms. Greenlee has vast experience advancing and promoting the health and independence of older Americans. Please join us in welcoming Kathy Greenlee to Washington.

MCOA Transitions New Director: Please Welcome

- Rebecca Tillinghest, who will assume the Director of Great Barrington COA on July 1, 2009
- The new director for Chesterfield COA is Deborah Marshall.
- The interim director for Medford COA is Karen Rose. She starts on July 10th,

MCOA Transitions: Retirements for July 1, 2009:

Good Luck to these women who have served for many years as Directors

- Bunny Caldwell, Gill-Montague
- Carolyn Gauthier, Dudley
- Grace Zbell, Great Barrington
- Jessica Flaherty, Medford (July 11, 2009)

More Retirements:

SCO/ PACE Director Retires: Just a note to let you know that I am retiring from state government this week. You may have already heard the happy news, but I did want to connect with you long-time SCO advisory members and thank you for your interest and support through the years. The MassHealth SCO and PACE units will remain intact. Susan Ciccariello and Christine Smith will be handling day to day SCO matters, and our boss Rachel Richards will be handling executive matters until my replacement is appointed. I have included their e-mail addresses above. The SCO Advisory meetings will continue in the fall. Susan and Christine will advise you of dates, times, etc. Again, my thanks and best wishes. Diane Flanders

NCOA Resignation- Former NISC Director: Friday June 5 will be my last day at the National Council on Aging after 10 years of service. For the past two years I've worked in the Civic Engagement Division and due to some funding shortfalls, our vice president was forced to reorganize our division and has eliminated two positions one of which was occupied by me. Where will I serve in my next position? Whom will I help? How will I in turn be helped? What challenges will my new team and I conqueror? These are the questions on the horizon for me. However, during the past 10 years you have helped me to create answers to those same questions for that, and for that I'm grateful. I am actively seeking employment opportunities in the Washington, DC area. Many of my contacts are scattered across America, but strange things happen--if you happen to hear of a position you think would interest me, or if you have search tips, please let me know! In the meantime, just keep me wrapped up in your positive thoughts! Sincerely, Constance Todd 4800 Illinois Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20011

MCOA Briefs: Job Opportunity at EOEA

https://jobs.hrd.state.ma.us/recruit/public/31100001/job/job_view.do?postingId=J18406&code=search.public&companyId=76&federalStimulus=no Coordinator of Field Operations (SHINE)

https://jobs.hrd.state.ma.us/recruit/public/31100001/job/job_view.do?postingId=J18404&code=search.public&companyId=76&federalStimulus=no Research Analyst (Legal unit)

MCOA Briefs: News You Can Use

Check out MCOA's website: www.mcoaonline.com for valuable information than you and your staff can use at your senior center. More info added daily! To add info contact Peter Kubaska peter@mcoaonline.com

The July Issue of Mass Home Care's *At Home* has been posted at www.masshomecare.org Lead article: DENUCCI CALLS FOR 'REBALANCING' LONG TERM CARE SPENDING.

Update NCOA/CVS Joint Venture

Thank you for your willingness to help the National Council on Aging and CVS/pharmacy promote the "Pack Your Bag" community outreach program to senior centers in your state. We are delighted to report that nationally almost 1,000 senior centers have participated in this program and over 5,000 Pack Your Bag consultations (1-on-1 reviews with pharmacists) have been conducted since the program's inception in 2008. Attached you will find a list of the Senior Centers in your state that are participating in the Pack Your Bag program.

What have we learned as a result of these consultations? CVS pharmacists have found that:

- 7% of seniors were taking expired medications
- 14% were not taking medications as prescribed
- 10% were at risk for potential drug interactions
- 15% had the opportunity to switch to money-saving generics

Since eight out of ten older Americans have at least one chronic health problem, such as high blood pressure or diabetes, and because many older adults take multiple medications, the Pack Your Bag community outreach program has become a valued ongoing partnership that is helping older Americans lead healthier lives.

The program, which is presented at participating senior centers across the country, encourages seniors to pack a bag with prescription and over-the-counter medications and dietary supplements, including vitamins, for a comprehensive review in one-on-one consultations with a local CVS pharmacist. The program also includes a presentation by the pharmacist on improving health through medication compliance.

Please continue to make senior centers in your state aware of the ongoing opportunity to sign up for this program. To learn about this program, senior centers can visit www.ncoa.org/BetterHealth. If you want to include a link to Pack Your Bag on your association website, you are welcome to do so.

Thank you again for helping us bring this important program to senior centers in your network. We also welcome feedback about this program. Please contact Gina Hill at NCOA on Gina.Hill@ncoa.org if you have any comments or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Donna Phillips, Vice President, Member & Network Relations, National Council on Aging &

Gina D. Hill, Senior Center Relationship Coordinator, National Council on Aging

1901 L Street, NW, Suite 400 Washington, DC 20036 Voice: 202.479.6970 | Fax: 202.479.0735

Gina.Hill@ncoa.org | www.ncoa.org www.ncoa.org/BetterHealth

Interested in a free, easy and educational program developed to help senior centers provide better health and wellness information to their participants? Visit NCOA's website, www.ncoa.org/BetterHealth and learn about the NCOA/CVS Prescription for Better Health Campaign Program.

MCOA Briefs: News You Can Use (continued)

From Emmett Schmarsow/ Elder Affairs

Dear Colleagues, This is an unusual question, but one that has been raised before.

A town of fewer than 1500 seniors in Norfolk County is anticipating the impact of an over-55 development that would add 150 extra seniors into town (approximately 10% of elder population, given its growth since the 2000 federal census).

Any increase in the senior population affects the COAs ability to serve elders without additional resources. Those "aging in place" will undoubtedly have a greater impact than boomers would at present. In this instance, the COA is looking to show "expert" opinion (in order to ask for compensation) regarding the impact this new development would have on the COAs budget and volunteer services and in-kind resources.

If someone had stratified (or were to stratify) by age the frequency and type of services of services and their representative costs, a good (my term) case could be made for securing some revenue for the impact of future development. It would seem that a new "assisted living" facility on the edge of town might generate a lot of impact on transportation alone, let alone outreach and other support services. The "who are you going to call?" question is virtually always answered by the COA.

If you have seen such a study published, know of someone who has conducted such a study/ies or would be otherwise be considered an "expert" in such questions, the COA in Medway would be interested in that information.

You can reach Missy Dziczek at "mdziczek@townofmedway.org". Any reply to her would be appreciated by yours truly. Thank you. Sincerely,

Emmett H. Schmarsow, Program Manager for COAs 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

Elder Economic Self Standard Report is done: "Lifelines for Elders Living on the Edge: How Elder Support Programs Compare to Living Costs" written by Laura Henze Russell, has been posted on MCOA's website go to www.mcoaonline.com

The Memory Project: Request Participants to be Videoed

My name is Sara Alfaro-Franco and I work with John Jope on his cable access show "Golden Opportunities" in Arlington, MA. I am working on a documentary that focuses on individuals experiencing memory loss. I'm actively looking for individuals and families willing to participate. I would like to post the project flyer on Council on Aging offices in the New England area. John suggested I talk to you. I am enclosing the project flyer for your review and consideration. Sincerely,

Sara Alfaro-Franco malta123@att.net 781-643-0895

MCOA Briefs: News You Can Use (continued)

The Memory Project: Do you have dementia or know someone who has dementia?

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS “To all individuals who have Alzheimer’s disease or other forms of Dementia or to those family and friends who are affected by people with Alzheimer’s disease or other forms of Dementia, a fellow member of the Alzheimer’s community is creating a feature length documentary about living with Alzheimer’s Disease or other forms of Dementia. Rather than primarily focusing on professionals and scholars in the field, the Memory Project hopes to serve as a springboard for participation and compassion. This documentary will embody and express the diversity, resiliency, depth and breadth of experiences found in our community. I believe in the power and insight of the individuals in our vast and growing community. As a filmmaker, I hope that our stories, perspectives, memories, experiences, images, and voices can be heard in order to raise greater awareness about the disease and its impacts on families, friends and individuals. I invite you to participate.

I am looking for individuals who are in the early to middle stages of Alzheimer’s disease or Dementia and friend or family member who are also willing and able to share their stories. For more information please contact:” Sara Alfaro-Franco at: 781-643-0895 or malta123@att.net

From Paul J. Lanzikos Executive Director North Shore Elder Services

Important Websites:

- The FDIC has issued several recent scam alerts. Please see this link for details <http://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/alerts/index.html>
- **The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services have updated a number of their consumer information websites regarding various healthcare providers and services. Go to <http://www.medicare.gov/Updates.asp>**
- If you have questions about Medicare activities, please visit www.medicare.gov or www.cms.hhs.gov, view our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) or you may also [Search](#) the Web Site. These features are designed to assist you in obtaining the information you are seeking.
- This service is provided to you at no charge by the [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#). <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/> Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (410-786-5473) · 7500 Security Boulevard · Baltimore MD 21244
- [Brief Examines Medicare Implications of Social Security Cost-of-Living Freeze](#)
Social Security recipients are not expected to receive a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for the first time in 2010, with no or low COLAs projected through 2012. The Foundation this week released a brief explaining the relationship between the Social Security COLA and the Medicare Part B premium, and the implications of the premium increase for Medicare beneficiaries. About three in four Medicare beneficiaries are protected by a “hold-harmless” provision in the law that ensures that their Medicare Part B premiums do not increase more than any increase in Social Security payments, to guard against a reduction in social security payments. In a year with no social security COLA, the hold harmless provision protects most beneficiaries from an increase in their Part B premium. The higher Part B premiums would apply to the remaining one quarter of beneficiaries – with monthly premiums expected to rise from \$96.40 this year to \$104.20 in 2010 and \$120.20 in 2011. However, since most in this group are low-income beneficiaries with premiums covered by Medicaid, the increased Part B premium would be borne by Medicaid increasing federal and state Medicaid costs. The hold harmless provision does not take into account changes in Part D premiums. The brief, “The Social Security COLA and Medicare Part B Premium: Questions, Answers, and Issues,” is available [online](#) at <http://www.kff.org/medicare/7912.cfm>

• **MCOA Briefs: Member Inquiry**

• **PT Custodian job description**

If anyone has a part time Custodian job description that they would be willing to share, I would really appreciate it if it could be faxed to Bellingham Senior Center — 508-966-5843

Or emailed to Laura DeMattia, Director, Bellingham Senior Center — ldemattia@bellinghamma.org

• **Senior Advocate job description**

I'm looking for a job description for a Senior Advocate. If anyone can email to me that would be great. Thank you. Tracy M. Nowicki, Director, City of Chelsea Elder Affairs, 10 Riley Way, Chelsea, MA 02150 — 617-466-4370 (w) — 617-466-4379 (f)

• **Info on Friends Groups**

The Westfield Council On Aging Board of Directors is seeking information on starting a "Friends" group. They are most concerned with pitfalls to avoid in starting such a group. Please send words of wisdom to Tina Gorman, Interim Director at t.gorman@cityofwestfield.org

• **Renting a Large Activity Room**

The Hanover COA may be interested in renting out our large activity room when we move in. If any COA does this, could you tell me what you charge and if you charge town departments. Any problems doing so? Is an insurance rider requested from the renters? Any information would be helpful.

Thanks. Robyn Mitton — coa@hanover-ma.gov

MCOA Briefs: For our Members — Upcoming Van Driver Trainings in Reading

You are invited to send your drivers to our upcoming trainings:

Reading Senior Center, 49 Pleasant Street, Reading, MA

Please call to reserve a spot: Ann - 781-942-6608 or email agentile@ci.reading.ma.us

July 6 9-1pm Coaching the van driver

Aug.3 9-1pm Driver's Job Responsibility for ADA (Sensitivity Training)

Sept. 14 9-1pm Wheelchair Securement

Pizza and soda will be provided for lunch at 1pm. Dawn Folopoulos, Elder/Human Services Administrator, Town of Reading, Phone: 781-942-6658 Fax: 781-942-9071

MCOA Briefs: Reminder

MCOA Going Paperless: For Some Your Last MCOANews (hard copy)

We have already informed our members that on July 1st MCOA will begin our transition to paperless. In order to go GREEN and save money on copying and postage, most communications will be posted on our website

www.mcoaonline.com Members will be notified of new postings by email. We have already begun:

- MCOA Briefs has begun a weekly distribution on Friday's. 'Business' needing immediate attention will still be sent as needed, but we are trying to combined most circulations into this weekly format. Only Members will receive this notification.
- MCOANews will continue as a monthly providing more detailed information on job postings, UpComing Events, Legislative Updates, Resources You Can Use and Transitions. The 'current issue' will only be available to members via a password. Back Editions are always available online.
- Fall Conferenece: planning for our fall conference has already begun. and the hotel reservation form and the Sponsor Exhibitor Information has already been posted at www.mcoaonline.com **We are not planning on mailing a registration packet for the fall conference. At registration material will be posted online by July 15th. A postcard reminder will be mailed. Members requiring a hard copy can call 413.527.6425 and ask for a registration package after July 15th.**
- MCOA recognizes that not all members will have access to the web and we are currently completing a survey to ascertain who is capable and who is not. In addition, the survey allows you to list additional email address of staff or board members that you want notified of postings. Those who indicate that cannot access the wb will still receive all mailings as long as they have paid their dues in the past and plan to do so in FY10.
- More details to follow as we work out the kinks - Suggestions are welcome!