



Minnesota Gerontological Society

Bridging the gap in Minnesota between research and practice in the field of aging, with special emphasis on developing and supporting tomorrow's leaders

News Bulletin

Offering updates in the field of Gerontology and information about MGS for its members

March 2010

MGS 2010 Conference – April 30, 2010

Join practitioners, academics, and students from throughout Minnesota for a thought provoking day and engaging exploration in current aging services innovations at MGS' 2010 Conference *Be the Change: New Ideas for Transforming Aging Services*. Through keynote Dr. Harry R. Moody, presentations, poster sessions, round table discussions and networking, conference attendees will have the opportunity to learn more about current research and how it translates into practice in our rapidly changing world of aging services. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from professionals and researchers located throughout Minnesota.

Careers in Aging Week – April 4-10

GSA and its educational branch, the Association for Gerontology in Higher Education, are now gearing up for Careers in Aging Week 2010, which will take place from April 4 to 10. This annual venture is intended to bring greater awareness and visibility to the wide-ranging career opportunities in aging and aging research. Universities and colleges around the world participate by sponsoring events at their schools or in their communities. Participants sponsor events such as networking receptions, panel discussions, job fairs, exhibits, and aging-related film screenings.

Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program

The deadline to apply for a 2010 Health and Aging Policy Fellowship is April 15, 2010. Supported by The Atlantic Philanthropies, this national program seeks to provide professionals in health and aging with the experience and skills necessary to contribute to the development and implementation of health policies that affect older Americans. The program is open to physicians, nurses, social workers, and other clinicians (e.g., pharmacists, dentists, clinical psychologists) with a demonstrated commitment to health and aging issues and a desire to be involved in health policy at the federal, state, or local level. For more information, visit <http://www.healthandagingpolicy.org/>.

Study of Working Caregivers and Employer Health Care Costs

The MetLife Mature Market Institute with the National Alliance for Caregiving in conjunction with the University of Pittsburgh Institute of Aging recently released a report, MetLife Study of Working Caregivers and Employer Health Care Costs. The report reveals that working caregivers, who tend to experience more health problems than non-caregivers, cost employers an estimated average of an additional 8% in health care expenses per year, or \$13.4 billion annually. The report also found that younger caregivers (ages 18 to 39) cost their employers 11% more for health care than non-caregivers,

while male caregivers cost an additional 18%. The report suggests employers provide integrated wellness and eldercare programs for employees. For more information, visit: MetLife Mature Market Institute at <http://www.metlife.com/mmi> and click on “Working Caregivers.”

Active Aging: Supporting Individuals and Enhancing Community-based Care through Health Information Technology

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is requesting applications from organizations that propose to develop specialized centers for the purpose of (a) utilizing communication and information based technologies to improve and expand health-related services available to older adults, and (b) developing effective strategies to translate research advances into practice efficiently. Research results are intended to enhance the independence and functional capabilities of older adults through development of tools, production of demonstration projects, and construction of educational programs. Deadline: March 25, 2010. The agency’s website is <http://www.ahrq.gov/>.

Report: Aging Strategic Alignment Project

This report examines the components of home- and community-based services (HCBS) programs under multiple funding streams and reported progress and barriers to progress from the State Units on Aging (SUAs) in shifting the balance from institutional care to HCBS. Its purpose is to provide a broader understanding of each state’s infrastructure for HCBS programs for two target populations: older adults and adults with physical disabilities. The scope of the report was intended to cover all 50 states and the District of Columbia, along with all major HCBS revenue streams for the elderly and adults with disabilities. This stands in contrast to prior projects that focused on a limited number of states or on a specific type of HCBS funding source (e.g., Medicaid waivers). The accomplishments and initiatives reported to have had the greatest effect on the states’ HCBS delivery systems in the last two years and those anticipated in the coming two years provide insights regarding notable advances and pressing issues that face the states as they strive to rebalance long-term care. Download the report at <http://www.benrose.org/KPI/ASAP111809.cfm>

National Legal Resource Center at Administration on Aging

HHS Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee has launched a new website for the National Legal Resource Center (NLRC). The NLRC was created in 2008 by the Administration on Aging (AoA) to empower legal and aging services advocates with the resources necessary to provide high quality legal help to seniors who are facing direct threats to their ability to live independently in their homes and communities. The new website can be accessed at <http://www.nlrc.aoa.gov>

Medicare Part D 2010 Data Spotlights

The Kaiser Family Foundation has issued a collection of analyses related to the Part D Medicare stand-alone drug plan options available to seniors for calendar year 2010. Each of the spotlights focuses on a key aspect of the drug plans available to Medicare beneficiaries in 2010 and examines relevant trends since the Medicare drug benefit took effect in 2006. They were prepared by a team of researchers at Georgetown University, NORC and the Kaiser Family Foundation. The spotlights are available at <http://www.kff.org/medicare/med110909pkg.cfm>



The Minnesota Gerontological Society (MGS) offers this free Bulletin to its members. To submit items contact mgs@mngero.org. Inclusion in the newsletter does not necessarily mean endorsement by MGS staff or Board. MGS’ Bulletin is edited by Rajean P. Moone, PHD.