

Barrier Busters Network Action Group

October 22, 2008, LLRC

1:30pm—3:00pm

Attendees: *(Please excuse any misspellings. These are interpretations of individuals' handwritten names)*

Barbara Brewman
George Ridenour, AACIL
Measie James, WHP
Elizabeth MacComrath, WHP
Patricia Parker-Self, Washtenaw County Veterans Services
Al Neikirk, El Shaddai Counseling
Miriam Rashidirejad, El Shaddai Counseling
Karyn Boyce, Ozone House
Chantal R. Cotton, BB Intern
Patrice LaGrand, Neighborhood Senior Services
Sandy Reeber, ETCS
Colleen Joiner, Hemophilia Foundation of Michigan
Alycia Welch, POWER, Inc.
Erika Graham, POWER, Inc.
Shannon Duffany, Child Care Network
Mel Batkins, DHS
Rob Kesselring, CSTS
Laurence Simmons, HARC
Krista Nordberg, WHP
Mary Beth Lampe, CSTS, BB Tri-Chair
Jennifer Brown, Salvation Army
Heather Mooney, Washtenaw County Treasurer's Office
Shirley Tarvis, CSTS
Aaron Pressel, CAN
Andrea Plevak, MSU Extension, BB Tri-Chair
Paul Sher, Legal Services of S. Central Michigan, BB Tri-Chair
Ruth Kraut, WHP
Artrella M. Cohn, MSU Extension
Shannon Richards, Public Health Dept. of Washtenaw County
Helena Prince, Friends in Deed
Harriet Bakalar, Housing Bureau for Seniors (UMHS)

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Announcements:

a. Neighborhood Senior Services (NSS):

NSS is having their annual Senior Arts Show. 50% of all sales go to NSS and the other 50% goes to the participating artists. Dates: Nov. 7-9, 2008. Raffle available.

Annual Fall Chore Day – November 8, 2008. Volunteer forms can be downloaded online.

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- b. **El Shaddai Counseling Services** – Child care classes. Please refer people over.
- c. **Corner Health Program** – K-12 tutoring drop in services
- d. **Salvation Army** will be signing up families and individuals for Christmas assistance. Signup/registration times are Mon, Oct. 27 -31 & Nov. 6th from 10-3PM at both offices.
- e. **Brown Chapel** has free flu shots
- f. **The Health Department** has flu shots with a cost involved by appointment.
- g. **ETCS** has an upcoming program (email had been sent out about it)
- h. **Housing Bureau for Seniors** – Aging in Place Conference will take place from Nov. 10 – 13, 2008. The flyer was provided in the back of the meeting. Information is also on the website about the weeklong conference that is going to help people be able to stay in their homes.
- i. **Washtenaw Community College** – Has financial literacy programs going on for \$15 in Room 140 (Business Education Building) on Saturday, November 22, 2008 from 9AM-noon.
- j. **The Corner Health Center** – Free homework help for 8th – 12th Grade students and GED and ACT Preparation. Every Wednesday, 4.30-6PM at 47 N. Huron Street, Ypsilanti (2 blocks from the Ypsilanti bus station). Bus tokens and snacks are provided for free.
- k. **Friends in Deed** – Helena says that FID is receiving lot of cases now, so getting through is kind of difficult for clients. Please tell this to your referred clients and ask them to leave a message if they cannot get through to a person. If the clients really cannot reach them, then YOU can call on their behalf to the administrative line. Please DO NOT give clients Helena's and other staff members' individual contact numbers.

III. Approval of Agenda/Minutes

Approval of minutes moved and seconded by multiple members. Minutes Approved.

IV. New Business

a. Presentation:

Online Medicaid Enrollment & the Washtenaw Health Plan

Presented by Ruth Kraut & Krista Nordberg, Washtenaw County Public Health

There are 4 different programs in which this presentation will cover. They are:

MIChild

Healthy kids

MOMS

Plan First

Presentation Packet was handed out with an overview of the presentation PowerPoint as well as information about each program. Copies of the packet information will be available on the BB website soon. **Packet includes:**

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Medicaid Q Program Explanation
Washtenaw Health Plan Eligibility and Enrollment Criterion Form
Plan First Advertisement (with the Cat picture)
MIChild, Healthy Kids, Plan First, and MOMS online access letter (application site and trainings)
Documents needed for Online Enrollment in MIChild, Healthy Kids, Plan First, and MOMS, and other programs form
"I am applying for" document (can be faxed with the application)
Income guidelines
Hearing request for if someone was wrongly treated
Business cards of presenters
PowerPoint Presentation of today's presentation

The Programs:

MIChild:

Costs \$10/family/month
Will cover kids up to age 18, between 150-200% of the Poverty Level
Covers infants 185-200% of the Poverty Level

Healthy Kids:

Free medical coverage
Covers pregnant women and infants up to 185% of the Poverty Level
Covers ages 1-18, up to 150% of the Poverty Level

Plan First:

Family planning coverage
Covers women ages 19-44
Covers up to 185% Poverty Level (there are some special deductions that allow for slightly higher incomes)
Does not cover abortions, but can cover IUD's
Women can be dually enrolled in Plan B and Plan First
There are two types of agencies: qualified or assisting agencies

MOMs program:

Covers pregnant women who have not yet qualified for Healthy Kids
And/or pregnant women who are "Emergency Services Only" eligible

45 days from application, they have 45 days at least to enroll

Why is online enrollment so great?

Fast, quick, and fun! Informs you if you miss a question

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You get good feedback from clients

What you need to enroll someone?

1. Household income
2. ID
3. SS#
4. Proof of citizenship

(If pregnant, expected due date is necessary (if twins, then proof of twins is necessary))

Important Notes about enrollment:

1. You should wait to enroll if someone comes and does not have all the information with them.
2. People can enroll themselves, still with the proper information provided (online).
3. If you mess up while filling out the online form, you can send a form individually.
4. Name spellings are important. Nicknames are not encouraged because the names will not match later in the process.
5. There is a chart at the end of the Citizenship/Alien Status eligibility page at the bottom of the PEM. Please look at that chart with your client to get more info.
6. How many BB agencies have an agency ID in order to do enrollments? *Not enough*
How do you get one? Come to a testing day!!

Upcoming Testing Dates to get an agency ID: 11.17.08 and 12.15.08 from 2-4

One agency ID is necessary per agency address. If unsure about your agency's status, email Tara Clark at taracklark@maximus.com. Most importantly about this service: It's free!!

Answers to questions that may come up:

Child support is considered as the kid's income

Info on the father is necessary (even if the info is simply "father unknown")

Two Other Important Health Programs (that includes students!):

Medicaid Q:

For 19-20 year olds

Income guideline is ~\$500/month

Person does not have to be disabled

Can be students

If you want to order a pile of applications, you can do so from DHS

Food Stamps Advocacy Project:

There are UM Law students that will help with the food stamp application process.

However, the Law students only work at actual sites and do not do home visits.

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Contact info of presenters and others who are resourceful with these programs:

Ruth Kraut, krautr@ewashtenaw.org

Krista Nordberg, nordbergk@ewashtenaw.org

WHP, Ellen Rabinowitz (rabinowitze@ewashtenaw.org) or Measie James (jamesme@ewashtenaw.org)

Presentation Q&A:

1. All programs are basically administered by DHS
2. Any new programs for seniors? Not really, just Medicare
3. Pregnant person: send them to the public health department. They can get instant medical care.
4. Has anyone made a flowchart of the diff. health insurance policies? Presenter has tried, but it is just a really long, not succinct document. Kids, seniors, pregnant women, etc. are all in different flowcharts. Any volunteers to make a succinct version of the flowchart should contact the presenters.
5. If you fill out the application, it is for all the programs. But if you know which program they are most eligible for, you can state that on the application. If a provider isn't chosen, then they will be assigned to one.

V. Old Business

a. **Andrea Plevak, Tri-Chair: Barrier Buster Agencies Follow-up Evaluation Update**

We are still moving forward with the Barrier Buster Agencies Follow-up evaluation. This is just a reminder that it will be coming in January 2009. Many of your organizations do not make a lot of requests per year, so it will not be too much extra work added to your plate. For agencies that make more requests per year, we will work with you to get all of the necessary follow-up evaluations done. This evaluation survey is a six month follow-up with clients that have received funding from Barrier Busters. We are using this evaluation to prove the effectiveness of the Barrier Busters program and to ensure that people are still housed months after they have received aide from the program.

b. **Mary Beth Lampe, Tri-Chair: The LLRC and Future BB Meeting Spaces**

At the moment there is no staff at the LLRC. This means that we will have to do setup and equipment maintaining for future meetings.

If other agencies have meeting space available for the future, please let Chantal or the Tri-Chairs know. We will be looking into space at the United Way, the American Red Cross, and the Center for Independent Living (on Research Drive). We are also aware that Safehouse has space, as well as DHS and the Corner Center.

Please check before each meeting to ensure you know the location of each meeting.

c. **Chantal R. Cotton, Barrier Busters Intern: 211 Website Information Update through Shannon Farmer. Who didn't get it?**

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We discovered that some people did not receive their packet about updating their agency information on the 211 website. These packets were sent out after last month's BB meeting to everyone who did not receive them from Shannon Farmer at the meeting. There was one packet per agency. If you, or someone else at your agency, did not receive the packet in snail mail, please let Intern Chantal know. For more details, please review last month's meeting notes or contact Chantal or 211 Shannon Farmer.

People/Agencies that have contacted Chantal about not receiving it:

Harriet Bakalar, LMSW Housing Bureau for Seniors (UMHS)

Measie James, WHP

George Ridenour, LMSW, AACIL

Laurence Simmons, HARC

Therese Taylor, Older Youth Programs of MI Works

Shannon Duffany, Child Care Network

Angela Moore, The Women's Center of SE Michigan

Shannon Richards, Public Health of Washtenaw County

Barb Blom, Shelter Assoc. Of Washtenaw County

Victoria Lynnette Smith, POWER, Inc.

Chuck Kieffer, WHA

Soni Buda-Thornburgh, Catholic Social Services

Darlene Racz, Turner Geriatric Clinic Social Work Programs

VI. Andrea Plevak (for Anita Mure, OCD): Barrier Busters Unmet Needs Fund Update

Anita from the Office of Community Development says that as of today, we are very low on funds, but new funds are coming soon. Right now, we have about \$300, and two more requests are being filled now for \$500 apiece. The county has released its funding to us and we are waiting for matching funds from United Way.

Other sources of funding:

Jet foundation funding

Ann Arbor Water utility fund will be released next week

County infusion funds

At the end of Sept., our DHS reimbursement has \$500 left to be matched.

VII. Case Consultation

For issues dealing with mortgage foreclosures, please contact any of the following people:

MSU Extension (Andrea Plevak)

Treasurer's Office of Washtenaw County (Heather and Moonson)

Legal Services of S. Central Michigan (Paul Sher)

Housing Bureau for Seniors (Harriet Bakalar)

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VIII. Next Meeting

Our next Barrier Busters meeting will be on Wednesday, Nov. 26 (the day before Thanksgiving). We will have a presentation from the Asset Coalition. The December meeting has been moved to the third week of December (Dec. 17th) at the Red Cross. Look for the reminder email and posting on the BB website about that meeting.

IX. Adjourn (Thank you!!)

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