

## **RESOURCES for AGING**

**June 6, 2007 (No. 48)**

### **SPECIAL NEWS ALERT**

#### **BC/BS Requests 50.3% Medicare Supplemental Insurance Increase**

Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan (BC/BS) has filed for a 50.3 percent rate increase for Medicare Supplemental insurance. This would affect Medicare eligible customers who buy their own supplemental insurance from BC/BS.

According to this filing with the State of Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Services (OFIS), BC/BS proposes this increase in premiums for the 218,000 older adults in Michigan who purchase this insurance. The rate increase will become effective on **July 1** unless it is revised or reversed.

OFIS Commissioner, **Linda Waters**, has 60 days from April 26 to analyze the proposed rate increase to determine if it is "equitable, adequate and not excessive." She must approve the rate increase, approve it with modifications, or disapprove it, unless an evidentiary hearing has been requested before that date.

A written request for an evidentiary hearing can be submitted to OFIS by anyone who has standing, and who is interested in becoming more involved in reviewing this filing. To have standing, an individual must be acting on behalf of a person who is, or who has reasonable grounds to believe, that he or she could be aggrieved by the proposed increase. Requests must be submitted to OFIS before **June 25**.

Written opinions and suggestions also can be submitted to express opinions on whether the proposed rate increase meets statutory standards. Direct all comments to **Joan Miles**, Deputy Commissioner, Health Plans Division, OFIS, PO Box 30220, Lansing, 48909.

The proposed rate increase and supporting information are available for public review and copying during work hours at OFIS, Third Floor, 611 West Ottawa Street, Lansing. For more information, call **Jo Murphy**, Director of the Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAAP), at 517/886-1242, ext. 15, or toll-free 800/803-7174.

-----

### **ABOUT RESOURCES FOR AGING**

**Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor**  
**Sharon L. Gire, OSA Director**  
**Jerutha Kennedy, CSA Chairperson**

Resources for Aging is the electronic newsletter (e-newsletter) of the **Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)** in **Lansing**. It provides timely information about aging network news, events and resources.

This e-newsletter is provided by OSA at no cost as a public service, and is not copyrighted. Feel free to duplicate, reprint, fax, forward or send it, or parts of it, to

anyone without permission.

OSA is the designated State Unit on Aging for Michigan as authorized by the Older Americans Act of 1965 and the Older Michiganians Act of 1981. OSA advocates on behalf of individuals age 60 or older for policies, programs and services that benefit them and their families, and it administers federal and state funds and manages grants for services provided by the aging network service providers.

The events/meetings, funding/grants, products/services and all other resources described in this e-newsletter should not be interpreted as constituting recommendation/endorsement by OSA or any of its staff members. The information is presented for informational/educational purposes only.

Complimentary e-newsletter issues are sent by e-mail to those on the e-newsletter distribution list. Printed copies also are mailed upon request to those who do not have Internet/e-mail access. To access back issues, go to the OSA website, [www.michigan.gov/miseniors](http://www.michigan.gov/miseniors), and see "Resource Library."

To receive e-newsletter issues, send a request by e-mail to editor **David Dekker** at [dekkerd@michigan.gov](mailto:dekkerd@michigan.gov). Please provide name, e-mail address and telephone number. To stop receiving this e-newsletter, e-mail a message to [dekkerd@michigan.gov](mailto:dekkerd@michigan.gov) that says "remove from e-newsletter list."

Mail correspondence to **OSA**, 7109 W. Saginaw, P.O. Box 30676, **Lansing**, 48909-8176, or fax 517/373-4092, TDD 517/373-4096.