

**RESOURCES for AGING**  
**June 19, 2006 (Vol. 3 No. 8)**

Welcome to Resources for Aging, 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.

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Complimentary Issues are sent directly by e-mail to those on an e-newsletter distribution list. Printed copies are mailed upon request to those who do not have Internet/e-mail access. Also, past issues can be accessed at [www.miseniors.net](http://www.miseniors.net).

Resources for Aging is distributed every three weeks. The next two issues will be dated July 10 and July 31.

For more information about this e-newsletter, see the RESOURCES FOR AGING section at the end of this issue.

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**AGING NETWORK NEWS**

**Governor Announces Four Sites for SPE Demonstration Projects**

**Gov. Jennifer Granholm** has announced the selection of four sites for Single Point of Entry (SPE) Demonstration Projects. The four demonstration projects will receive \$34.8 million over a 27-month period. Although the grants will begin this July, they will not get off the ground until October.

The four projects implement a key recommendation made last year to the Governor and the Michigan Legislature by the Governor's Medicaid Long-Term Care (LTC) Task Force. They also demonstrate the Governor's commitment to the people of Michigan to improve the state's LTC system.

The SPEs will serve as visible access points within a designated SPE area for individuals seeking LTC. They will provide "one-stop shopping" for all LTC questions and concerns. They will help Michigan consumers and families who need help sorting through all of the available programs, agencies, housing options, eligibility guidelines, and application procedures that are involved in LTC choices.

They will allow individuals to acquire needed LTC supports and services, choose a preferred setting to receive those services, and plan ahead to meet their own LTC needs. In addition, SPEs will be the sole agency to assess a consumer's eligibility for Medicaid long-term care programs, and they will be cost-effective by controlling the growth of high cost services.

The four demonstration sites were selected by independently governed bodies after a comprehensive three-part application review process that included representatives from community groups and agencies, health facilities, advocacy groups and state agencies. When fully operational, they will serve nearly one-half of the state's population in 36 of the state's 83 counties. They will be administered by the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH). The four sites are:

- (1) **Detroit** (\$13.1 million). Submitted by the Detroit Area Agency on Aging (AAA-1A) with The Senior Alliance (AAA-1C) and the Wayne County Department of Human Services. The site will initially serve the Cities of Detroit, Hamtramck, Highland Park, Harper Woods, and the Grosse Pointes. Eventually, it will cover the entire County of Wayne.

- (2) **Southwest Michigan** (\$7.2 million). Submitted by the Region IV Area Agency on Aging (AAA-4) with the Region 3-A Area Agency on Aging (AAA-3A), the Region 3-B Area Agency on Aging (AAA-3B) and the Region 3-C Area Agency on Aging (AAA-3C). The site will serve Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph and Van Buren Counties.
- (3) **Upper Peninsula** (\$5.4 million). Submitted by the Upper Peninsula Commission for Area Progress (UPCAP) with the Michigan Department of Human Services (MDHS), hospital systems and nursing facilities. The site will serve the entire Upper Peninsula.
- (4) **Western Michigan** (\$9.1 million). Submitted by the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan (AAA-8) and Health and Human Services, HHS Health Options and Senior Resources (AAA-14). The site will serve Allegan, Ionia, Kent, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana and Ottawa Counties.

Other regions of the state that submitted SPE proposals, but could not be funded at this time, will be provided with SPE planning grants for independent collaborative efforts to bring all stakeholders in the region together to write grant proposals for future SPE funding.

For more information, go to [www.michigan.gov/ltc](http://www.michigan.gov/ltc) or call **TJ Bucholz** at MDCH (517/241-2112).

### **Head Named Director of the Michigan LTC Office**

Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) Director **Janet Olszewski** has announced that **Michael J. Head** has been named as Director of the Office of Long Term Care (LTC) Supports and Services.

Since 2003, he has led the MDCH Office of Consumer-Directed Home and Community-Based Services and served as MDCH's Olmstead Coordinator. He also has managed several federal Real Choice Systems Change grant projects, that are important to achieving a transformation in LTC, and has more than 30 years of experience with the public mental health and human services field.

The Office of LTC Supports and Services will integrate and coordinate LTC service systems; oversee the development of Single Points of Entry (SPEs); ensure quality consumer involvement and satisfaction; and expand provision of services based on consumer choice from a person-centered perspective.

For more information, call 517/335-0276.

### **First Gentleman of Michigan Praises Grandparents**

**First Gentleman Daniel Mulhern** distributes a free e-newsletter to any interested Michigan citizen who requests it. Called Reading for Leading, the e-newsletter is "a weekly stimulant for those who lead." It is for meeting "the challenges of leadership at home, work and in life."

In his **June 12** e-newsletter entitled “A Genuine Senior Moment,” the First Gentleman praises grandparents, in particular those who raise their own grandchildren.” He relates that **Rep. Brenda Clack** invited him to speak at “a celebration luncheon she and Catholic Charities were hosting for grandparents in Flint who were or are actively parenting grandchildren.”

Says the First Gentleman, “I had become keenly aware of this kind of heroic challenge, because my Little Brother’s grandmother adopted him nine years ago.” (Here he refers to the fact that he now serves as a Lunch Buddy and Big Brother in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program of Lansing).

“I have often been struck by the way Alberta (the grandmother of his Little Brother) stepped up, and now steps up every day in her life. Like so many of these quiet heroines and heroes, she feels she is simply doing what needs to be done, what life and God have asked.

“The journey to leadership in this instance begins with awareness of a gap, and then the willingness to step up to leadership to fill that gap. These grandparents took a first step that all of us can avoid by looking away, filtering out, not perceiving injustice, difficulty or danger. Some inner filter says to us, let someone else handle it. It is inspiring to watch someone who does not turn such a blind eye.

“This weekend, as I was reading a novel called Marathon, I stumbled across this life-focusing line from Horace Mann. He wrote, ‘Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity.’ It made me think about the response of these grandparents.

“Mann’s cry and (the Flint) grandparents also made me reflect on the short-term economic thinking that causes institutions to drive out older workers whose years have pushed them up the pay ladder. They feel underused and underappreciated. Shouldn’t we be inviting them, with the wisdom they have acquired, to pursue some victory for humanity?

“With a competitive world out there, and with demographics that suggest we will soon wish we still had them in the workforce, we would be wise to work hard at appreciating, engaging, challenging, and encouraging these 50 and 60 year-olds.

“Like the heroic (Flint) grandparents, they may not have the same energy they once had, but they have much more wisdom, and have the capacity to make a great difference – one they and we could savor. Why not spark their desire to win a victory, like these grandparents who have answered the call to make a difference?

“We may completely miss the fact that it may not be until we are in the twilight of our careers that we are really most able to...lead with our best self.”

Those wishing to subscribe to **First Gentleman Dan Mulhern’s** free, weekly e-newsletter should send a subscription request to [firstgentleman@michigan.gov](mailto:firstgentleman@michigan.gov) or go to the First Gentleman’s website, [www.michigan.gov/firstgentleman/0,1607,7-178-24402\\_24777---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/firstgentleman/0,1607,7-178-24402_24777---,00.html).

Topics of past issues include Leading with Goals; Hope, Change and Taking Control of Your Development; Leading a Great Place to Work; Great Leaders Move from Fault to Future; The Goopy vs. the Brutal Facts; Scared Witless; Getting People to go Above

and Beyond; Can it be Good to be Wrong? and Memorial Day: Leadership, Sacrifice and Recognition.

These weekly e-newsletters are copyrighted with all rights reserved. They reflect the First Gentleman's personal beliefs that may or may not reflect the views of his wife, the Governor, or any other official in state government.

### **AARP, AAAAM, MLHS, MNA and Others Oppose SOS**

A coalition of human service organizations has come together to fight a ballot proposal that would tie state government spending to the inflation rate.

The coalition opposed to this voter petition drive calls itself the Defend Michigan Coalition. It includes AARP, the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan (AAAAM), the Michigan League for Human Services (MLHS), the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA), labor unions, public universities and health care organizations.

The Defend Michigan Coalition says the ballot proposal would hurt funding for schools, health care, police, transportation and other human services, including aging network services, because the costs of many public services, in particular health costs, tend to increase at rates faster than the general inflation rate. Government spending would be so limited, it would result in drastic cuts to critical state programs and services.

Also, the coalition says Michigan does not need this because of a similar plan called the Headlee Amendment that was passed by the voters in 1978. That measure limits tax revenue to a percentage of all personal income.

In its Michigan Update publication, the AARP contends "this initiative would seriously undermine the state's ability to maintain services, creating the potential for devastating cuts to vital programs, including many that impact older Michiganders."

The MNA goes one step further. In its MNA Links publication, the MNA says "Because of the negative impact this proposal would have on nonprofits, those we serve and the resources we protect, the Michigan Nonprofit Association urges you to not sign this petition, and to share this information with your network."

The proposed ballot initiative, sponsored by the Michigan Stop Overspending Committee (SOS), would be on ballot for voter approval this November if enough valid signatures are collected. It would limit overall government spending increases to a factor based on the inflation rate and population growth.

In case of a budget emergency, state government could spend more than this amount, but only if the governor, state legislators and voters all first agreed to it. At the local level, all new taxes and mandatory user fees would have to be approved by the voters.

The SOS Committee must first collect more than 317,000 valid signatures of Michigan voters to be on the ballot. Its proposal is modeled after the Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) that was adopted in Colorado in 1992. Under TABOR, state spending for human services dropped dramatically. Consequently, last November Colorado voters, unhappy with TABOR, successfully voted to suspend TABOR for five years.

For more information, go to [www.mlhs.org](http://www.mlhs.org) or [www.sosmichigan.com](http://www.sosmichigan.com).

### **Michigan MiCAFE Honored by National Organization**

Each year, the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare honors individuals, programs and organizations which have served America's elders in extraordinary or innovative ways.

This year, Michigan Coordinated Access to Food for the Elderly (MiCAFE) has been recognized by the National Committee. MiCAFE has received an Honorable Mention Award as an "Innovative Program Serving Senior Adults" as part of the National Committee's Annual Salute to Leaders in Aging Awards.

MiCAFE serves low-income senior adults, in particular older women. It helps them access food stamps, Medicaid and other public benefits, and also insures their access to food and information about nutrition. MiCAFE currently serves senior adults in Branch, Cass, Eaton, Genesee and Gratiot Counties. This summer Kalamazoo County will be added.

MiCAFE is administered by ElderLaw of Michigan, Inc. In receiving this award on behalf of MiCAFE, ElderLaw of Michigan was recognized for enrolling 957 families in the Food Stamp Program.

According to ElderLaw of Michigan, the average monthly food stamp benefit for MiCAFE participants is \$67.00 for an annual allotment of \$804.00/participant. Each year this generates \$769,428.00 in new revenue for Michigan with an economic Impact of more than \$1.5 million/year.

For more information, call **Kate White** at ElderLaw of Michigan (517/485-9164, ext. 236).

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### **OSA EVENTS/MEETINGS**

#### **State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC)**

The next meeting will be held 9:30 a.m. **June 22** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Highway in **Lansing**. For more information, call **Sally Steiner** at OSA (517/373-8810) or e-mail her at [steiners@michigan.gov](mailto:steiners@michigan.gov)

#### **OSA/Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Directors**

The June meeting was cancelled. The next meeting will be held 1:30 p.m. **July 11** in Conference Room 3-B above OSA at 7109 West Saginaw Highway in **Lansing**. For more information, call **Jan Bowlin** at OSA (517/241-3864) or e-mail her at [bowlinj1@michigan.gov](mailto:bowlinj1@michigan.gov), or call **Mary Ablan** at the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan (517/886-1227) or e-mail her at [ablan@iserv.net](mailto:ablan@iserv.net)

#### **Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA)**

The next meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. **July 21** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West

Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Highway in **Lansing**. For more information, call **Cindy Albrecht** at OSA (517/335-4016) or e-mail her at [albrechtc@michigan.gov](mailto:albrechtc@michigan.gov)

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## EVENTS/MEETINGS ADDED SINCE THE LAST ISSUE

**Lenewee Senior Picnic**, sponsored by the Lenawee Department on Aging **June 21** at Island Park in **Adrian**, featuring health screenings, displays, door prizes, games, music and a group walk. For more information, call 517/264-5280.

**Memory Loss Seminar**, sponsored by the Midland County Council on Aging (CoA) **June 22** at the CoA's Senior Services Building in **Midland** for those who want help in communicating with a person who has dementia. To register, call 989/633-3722.

**Nationwide Health Information Network Forum**, sponsored by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology **June 28** at the National Institute of Health, Natcher Center in **Washington, DC** to discuss the requirements needed for a Nationwide Health Information Network that facilitates the accurate, appropriate, timely and secure exchange of health information. For more information, call 202/690-7151 or go to [www.hhs.gov/healthit/nhin\\_forum1.htm](http://www.hhs.gov/healthit/nhin_forum1.htm).

**Family Night Out**, a chicken dinner and drawing sponsored by the Cass County Council on Aging (CoA) **July 7** at the CoA in **Cassopolis** with all money raised going to the Alzheimer's Association and the Domestic Assault Shelter. For more information, call 269/445-8110 or toll-free 323-0390.

**6<sup>th</sup> Annual Storyteller's Festival Senior Venue**, sponsored by the Heart of Senior Citizen Services in partnership with the Flint Public Library **July 7** at the Krapohl Center in **Mt. Morris**. For more information, call 810/785-2270.

**Person-Centered Dementia Care: What is it, Why it Works and Methods for How to**, sponsored by Optimal Life Designs in Dementia Care (organizers of the Annual Edna Gates Conference on Dementia Care) **July 27** at Huron Woods on the Campus of St. Joseph Mercy Health System in **Ann Arbor**. For more information, call 810/231-2723 or e-mail to [annerobinson2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:annerobinson2@sbcglobal.net).

**Summer Fun Golf Outing**, sponsored by the Isabella County Council on Aging & Friends of Isabella Seniors **August 4** at the Pleasant Hills Golf Club in **Mt. Pleasant** with all proceeds going to the Isabella County Commission on Aging (CoA) countryside programs and services. For more information, call 989/772-4588 or 989/772-0748.

**Senior Day at the UP State Fair**, sponsored by the Upper Peninsula State Fair **August 16** at the UP State Fairgrounds in **Escanaba**. For more information, call 906/786-4011.

**Health and Philanthropy: Leverage Change**, the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium sponsored by the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University **August 24-25** at the Indiana University Place Conference Center and Hotel in **Indianapolis**. For more information, go to [www.philanthropy.iupui.edu](http://www.philanthropy.iupui.edu) or call 317/274-4200.

**Seniors' Day**, sponsored by the Michigan State Fair **August 28** at the Michigan State

Fairgrounds in **Detroit** to provide live entertainment, senior exhibits, free donuts, orange juice, raffle tickets and free admission for senior adults age 62 or older. For more information, call OSA at 517/373-8230 or e-mail to [carrollk@michigan.gov](mailto:carrollk@michigan.gov).

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## MICHIGAN CONFERENCES

**Nonprofit Day 2006**, sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) and its Public Policy Initiative (MPPI) **September 27** at the Lansing Center in **Lansing**. For more information, go to [www.mnaonline.org](http://www.mnaonline.org) or call toll free 888/242-7075.

**26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference: Transitions Through a Lifespan**, sponsored by the Brain Injury Association of Michigan **September 28-29** at the Lansing Center in **Lansing**. For more information, go to [www.biami.org](http://www.biami.org) or call toll-free 800/772-4323.

**2006 Senior Advisory Council 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**, sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network **October 13** at the Bavarian Inn in **Frankenmuth**. For more information, call toll-free 800/733-2583

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual UP Nonprofit Conference**, sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association **October 13** at the Great Lakes Center for Youth Development in **Marquette**. For more information, go to [www.glcyd.org](http://www.glcyd.org) or call 906/228-8919.

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## DEMENTIA EVENTS/MEETINGS

**Understanding Alzheimer's**, an introductory program sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Great Lakes Chapter to recognize possible signs of Alzheimer's Disease; better understand how Alzheimer's is diagnosed; recognize the effects of Alzheimer's on the brain; and gain access to community resources. The programs will be held:

**June 20** at Eaton Rapids Senior Center in **Eaton Rapids**  
**June 23** at the Ann Arbor Senior Center in **Ann Arbor**

For more information, go to [www.alzmgreatlakes.org](http://www.alzmgreatlakes.org) or call toll-free 800/272-3900.

**Caring for a Person with Late Stage Alzheimer's Disease**, a program sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Great Lakes Chapter **June 20** at the Red Cross in **Ann Arbor** to discuss the challenges caregivers face during the late stage of Alzheimer's Disease; what they can expect as the disease progresses; and how to make meaningful connections with their loved ones, and maintain their connections with family and friends. For more information, go to [www.alzmgreatlakes.org](http://www.alzmgreatlakes.org) or call toll-free 800/272-3900.

**Losing Your World: Implications for Caregivers of Individuals with Dementia**, a 2006 Professional Series seminar sponsored by the Gerontology Network **August 11** at the Montcalm County Commission on Aging in **Stanton**. For more information, go to [www.gerontologynetwork.org](http://www.gerontologynetwork.org) or call 616/771-9710 or toll-free 800/730-6135, ext. 710.

**Advanced Techniques in Dementia Care**, a 2006 Professional Series seminar

sponsored by the Gerontology Network **September 8** at the Kettunen Center in **Tustin**. For more information, go to [www.gerontologynetwork.org](http://www.gerontologynetwork.org) or call 616/771-9710 or toll-free 800/730-6135, ext. 710.

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## MICHIGAN NONPROFIT SEMINARS/TRAINING EVENTS

**Planning for Long-Term Care**, a seminar sponsored by Educational Services **June 20** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West in **Lansing**. For more information, call 800/724-9866 or e-mail to [edsers@verizon.net](mailto:edsers@verizon.net).

**CEO 201: Management and Leadership Seminar for New Executive Directors of Nonprofit Organizations**, sponsored by the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership at Grand Valley State University (GVSU) **June 20-22** at the GVSU Alumni House in **Allendale**. For more information, go to [www.johnsoncenter.org](http://www.johnsoncenter.org) or call 616/331-7232.

**Identifying Community Resources**, a training session sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) Kinship Care Resource Center **June 23** at the Hannah Community Center in **East Lansing**. For more information, call toll-free 800/535-1218 or e-mail to [kinship@msu.edu](mailto:kinship@msu.edu).

**Caregivers' Choices Open House: Healthy Caregivers Make for Healthy Caregiving**, sponsored by the Aging Services Network of Berrien County **June 27** at First United Methodist Church in **St. Joseph**.

**Facilitating Support Groups**, a Summer 2006 Issues in Aging seminar sponsored by the Macomb Community College (MCC) Center for Continuing Education **July 12-26** at the MCC Center Campus in **Clinton Township** to learn how to organize, lead and facilitate caregiver support groups. For more information, call 586/498-4000.

**Anything but Bingo**, a Summer 2006 Issues in Aging seminar sponsored by the Macomb Community College (MCC) Center for Continuing Education **July 22-29** at the MCC Center Campus in **Clinton Township** to learn ideas for physical, social and spiritual programs for senior adults with a wide range of abilities. For more information, call 586/498-4000.

**When & How to Move a Loved One**, a Summer 2006 Issues in Aging seminar sponsored by the Macomb Community College (MCC) Center for Continuing Education **August 8-10** at the Assumption Cultural Center in **St. Clair Shores** to explore when home services should be considered, and when those services are not enough. For more information, call 586/498-4000.

**Will and Trust Preparation**, a Summer 2006 Issues in Aging seminar sponsored by the Macomb Community College (MCC) Center for Continuing Education **August 23** at the MCC Center Campus in **Clinton Township** to learn how to draft your will and plan your estate plan. For more information, call 586/498-4000.

**CEO 601: Advanced Leadership**, a training sponsored by the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University (GVSU) for board members and executives of nonprofit organizations **October 18-20** at the Shanty Creek Resort in

**Bellaire.** For more information, go to [www.johnsoncenter.org](http://www.johnsoncenter.org) or call 616/331-7232.

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### OTHER MICHIGAN EVENTS/MEETINGS

**The Journey**, a special presentation featuring author, singer & songwriter Lora Wade, and sponsored by the Grief Support Group of the Cass County Council on Aging (CoA) **June 22** at the CoA in **Cassopolis**. For more information or to RSVP, call 269/445-8110 or toll-free 800/323-0390.

**2006 Summer Games**, sponsored by the Michigan Senior Olympics **July 8-15** at the Western Michigan University (WMU) campus in **Kalamazoo**. For more information, go to [www.michiganseniorolympics.org](http://www.michiganseniorolympics.org), call 248/608-0250 or toll-free 800/400-8161. See also the AGING NETWORK NEWS section of this issue (above).

**Third Annual Family Gathering**, a meeting and gathering sponsored by the Family Support Work Group and the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council **July 11** at Hawk Island Park in **Lansing**. For more information, call 517/334-6123.

**Statewide Meeting**, sponsored by the Michigan Campaign for Quality Care **July 15** in the Lake Superior Room of the Library of Michigan in **Lansing**. For more information, go to [www.campaignforquality.org](http://www.campaignforquality.org) or call 517/324-5754.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual St. Clair County Caregiver Fair**, a free event for family caregivers sponsored by Area Agency on Aging (AAA) 1B **September 30** at the Thomas Edison Inn in **Port Huron**. For more information, call toll-free 800/852-7795 or e-mail to [jjarvis@aaa1b.com](mailto:jjarvis@aaa1b.com).

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Solutions for Family Caregivers Fair**, a free event sponsored by Area Agency on Aging (AAA) 1B **October 21** at the Best Western Sterling Inn Banquet and Conference Center in **Sterling Heights**. For more information, call toll-free 800/852-7795 or e-mail to [sjustice@aaa1b.com](mailto:sjustice@aaa1b.com).

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### CONFERENCES/EVENTS OUTSIDE MICHIGAN

**Annual Research Meeting 2006**, the premier forum for health services research sponsored by Academy Health **June 25-27** at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center in **Seattle, WA**. For more information, go to [www.academyhealth.org/arm/abstracts](http://www.academyhealth.org/arm/abstracts).

**National Travel Forum 2006: Where the Travel Stars Shine**, sponsored by the General Services Administration (GSA) and the Interagency Travel Management Committee (ITMC) **June 26-29** at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in **Los Angeles, CA**. For more information, go to [www.nationaltravelforum.org](http://www.nationaltravelforum.org) or call 202/208-4421.

**Annual Training Conference**, sponsored by the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Service Providers (NANASP) **June 29-July 1** at the Wynfry Hotel in **Birmingham, AL**. For more information, go to [www.nanasp.org](http://www.nanasp.org) or call 202/682-6899.

**2006 Institute for Transportation Coordination**, an intensive training and planning forum sponsored by the Community Transportation Association of America **July 31-August 3** in **Washington, DC** for those interested in building more effective partnerships to meet community transportation needs. For more information, go to [www.ctaa.org/ntrc/institute.asp](http://www.ctaa.org/ntrc/institute.asp).

**Pioneer Network 2006 Conference**, sponsored by NewCourtland Elder Services **August 2-4** at the Sheraton Philadelphia City Center in **Philadelphia, PA** for teams and individuals who provide care and support for elders, including those who are in nursing homes or assisted living. For more information, go to [www.pioneernetwork.net](http://www.pioneernetwork.net) or call 585/271-7570.

**The Crossroads of Health Care: Covering Managed Care, Cost-Efficiency, Legal & Regulatory Issues**, sponsored by Foundations Associates **August 7-9** at the Wyndham Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel in **Baltimore, MD**. For more information, go to [www.dualdiagnosis.org](http://www.dualdiagnosis.org) or call 877/345-3274.

**2006 Governor's Conference on Aging: the Changing Face of Aging**, sponsored by the Nebraska Division of Aging and Disability Services, the State Unit on Aging, **August 8-10** at the Holiday Inn in **Kearney, NE**. For more information, call toll-free 800/942-7830.

**30<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer School of Gerontology**, sponsored by the South Carolina Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging **August 20-25** to provide education and training for professionals who work with the aging population and others interested in aging issues at Springmaid Beach, **Myrtle Beach, SC**. The lodging and meal costs of presenters, as well as limited travel costs, will be covered. For more information, call 803/734-9878 or e-mail to [halljen@aging.sc.gov](mailto:halljen@aging.sc.gov).

**2006 Autumn Series on Aging-West Coast**, sponsored by the American Society on Aging (ASA) **September 11-14** at the Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue in **Philadelphia** to provide continuing education for professionals who work with senior adults and their families. For more information, go to [www.asaging.org/autumn-series](http://www.asaging.org/autumn-series) or call toll-free 800/537-9728.

**Powerful Boards, Powerful Fundraising**, sponsored by The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University (IU) **September 20-21** at The Fundraising School in **Indianapolis, IN**. For more information, go to [www.philanthropy.iupui.edu](http://www.philanthropy.iupui.edu) or call 800/962-6692.

**2006 Autumn Series on Aging-West Coast**, sponsored by the American Society on Aging (ASA) **September 25-28** at the Embassy Suites Hotel in **San Francisco** to provide continuing education for professionals who work with senior adults and their families. For more information, go to [www.asaging.org/autumn-series](http://www.asaging.org/autumn-series) or call toll-free 800/537-9728.

**22<sup>nd</sup> National Home & Community Based Services Conference/Age and Disability Odyssey**, entitled "Seasons of Change in Home and Community Supports" and sponsored by the National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA) and the Minnesota Department of Human Services/Aging and Adult Services **October 3-6** at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in **Minneapolis, MN**. For more information, go to [www.nasua.org/waiverconference](http://www.nasua.org/waiverconference) or call 202/898-2578.

**2006 Annual Conference**, sponsored by the National Guardianship Association (NGA) **October 7-10** at the Newport Beach Marriott Resort & Spa in **Newport Beach, CA**. For more information, go to [www.guardianship.org](http://www.guardianship.org), call 814/238-3126 or e-mail to [info@guardianship.org](mailto:info@guardianship.org).

**1<sup>st</sup> National Concepts in Care Conference**, a care-focused gathering of family caregivers and healthcare professionals from across the nation sponsored by the Alzheimer's Foundation of America **October 21-22** at the Hilton Anatole-Dallas in **Dallas**. For more information, go to [www.alzfdn.org](http://www.alzfdn.org) or call toll-free 866/232-8484.

**Life @ 50+ AARP's National Event and Expo**, sponsored by AARP **October 26-28** at the Anaheim Convention Center in **Anaheim, CA**. For more information, go to [www.aarp.org/events](http://www.aarp.org/events) or call toll-free 800/883-2784.

**Education & the Gerontological Imagination**, the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting sponsored by the Gerontological Society of America **November 15-20** at the Adam's Mark Hotel in **Dallas, TX**. For more information, go to [www.agingconference.com](http://www.agingconference.com) or call 202/842-1275.

**2007 Joint Conference of the National Council on Aging (NCoA) and the American Society on Aging (ASA)**, to be held **March 7-10, 2007** in **Chicago, IL**. For more information, go to [www.agingconference.org](http://www.agingconference.org), call 415/974-9600 or e-mail to [ic07@asaging.org](mailto:ic07@asaging.org).

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## FOR-PROFIT TRAINING EVENTS/RESOURCES

The following information about for-profit training events and resources is presented as a public service for informational purposes only, and should not be interpreted as constituting OSA promotion or endorsement. OSA does not receive financial or any other benefit for providing this information.

### For-Profit Training Events

**How to Build Powerful Powerpoint Presentations**, conducted by Skillpath Seminars **July 10** in **Farmington Hills**, **August 3** in **Ann Arbor**, **August 16** in **Jackson**, **August 17** in **Flint**, **August 18** in **Traverse City** and **August 4** in **Troy**. For more information, go to [www.skillpath.com](http://www.skillpath.com) or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

**The Conference on Customer Service**, conducted by Skillpath Seminars **July 17** in **Grand Rapids** and **September 1** in **Lansing**. For more information, go to [www.skillpath.com](http://www.skillpath.com) or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

**How to Write Effective Policies and Procedures**, conducted by Skillpath Seminars **July 20** in **Farmington Hills**. For more information go to [www.skillpath.com](http://www.skillpath.com) or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

**Managing Emotions Under Pressure**, conducted by CareerTrack **July 31** in **Kalamazoo**, **August 1** in **Grand Rapids**, **August 2** in **Lansing**, **August 3** in **Ann Arbor**, **August 4** in **Sterling Heights**, **August 7** in **Petoskey**, **August 8** in **Traverse City**, **August 9** in **Saginaw**, **August 11** in **Southfield**, **August 17** in **Jackson**, **August**

**18 in Dearborn and August 10 in Flint.** For more information, go to [www.careertrack.com](http://www.careertrack.com) or call toll-free 800/556-3009.

**Managing Multiple Projects, Objectives and Deadlines**, conducted by Skillpath Seminars **July 31 in Farmington Hills, August 3 in Saginaw, August 18 in Jackson, September 5 in Troy, September 6 in Ann Arbor, September 7 in Dearborn, September 22 in Traverse City, August 1 in Detroit, August 2 in Flint, August 4 in Grand Rapids and September 8 in Grand Rapids.** For more information go to [www.skillpath.com](http://www.skillpath.com) or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

**Advanced Microsoft Excel Techniques**, conducted by CompuMaster **August 22-23 in Ann Arbor, August 24-25 in Farmington Hills, August 28-29 in Grand Rapids and September 11-12 in Dearborn and September 13-14 in Troy.** For more information, go to [www.compumaster.net](http://www.compumaster.net) or call toll-free 800/867-4340

**Managing and Eliminating Unacceptable Behavior and Other Employee Performance Barriers**, conducted by Skillpath Seminars **September 25-26 in Troy.** For more information, go to [www.skillpath.com](http://www.skillpath.com) or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

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**FEDERAL REGISTER**  
**(May 29 – June 16)**

**AoA to Fund Senior Medicare Patrol Integration Projects**

See the Federal Register dated **May 31** (Vol. 71, No. 104). Go to “Aging Administration” and see “Grants, Senior Medicare Patrol Integration Projects Program.” This notice from the Administration on Aging (AoA) announces the availability of competitive grant funding to support Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) efforts to advance collaborative and innovative approaches for integration of Medicare and Medicaid fraud awareness and prevention activities within states and communities. The funding is provided under two options. Michigan is not eligible for funding under the first option because the funding is limited to those states that received SMP funding in 2004 when the program started. However, now Michigan public/private nonprofit organizations are eligible to receive up to 14 SMP competitive two-year grants of up to \$100,000/each that will be awarded by the AoA and the National Consumer Technical Support Center. The purpose will be to provide training and education to combat health care error, fraud and abuse within populations thus far generally underserved by the SMP program. Applicants must demonstrate expertise and experience in working with at least one of the target population groups of isolated and hard-to-reach individuals. They are minority, ethnically or culturally diverse, non-English speaking, tribal, isolated or rural populations, as well as others not traditionally reached, such as homebound or long-term care residents. Grant recipients must provide at least 25 percent of the total program costs. Grant applications must be received by **July 19**. For more information, go to [www.aoa.gov/doingbus/fundopp/fundopp.asp](http://www.aoa.gov/doingbus/fundopp/fundopp.asp) or [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

**AoA to Award Grants for Statewide Legal Services Development**

See the Federal Register dated **May 31** (Vol. 71, No. 104). Go to “Aging Administration” and see “Grants, Statewide Legal Assistance Systems.” This notice from the Administration on Aging (AoA) seeks proposals from eligible states to develop

model systems for incorporating low-cost legal assistance mechanisms into the statewide legal services development and delivery program. Seven states, including Michigan, are eligible to apply. Awards will be made to the agency within each state that currently houses the Legal Services Developer. The goal is to maximize the number of states utilizing low-cost legal assistance mechanisms to provide legal services to senior adults as part of their statewide legal services development and delivery program. Low cost service delivery mechanisms include the senior legal helpline model funded by the AoA. The AoA will be substantially involved in providing technical assistance and support. Four grants of approximately \$100,000/each will be awarded for a project period of up to three years. Grant recipients will be required to provide at least 25 percent of the total grant. The deadline for applications is **July 24**. For more information, go to [www.aoa.gov/doingbus/fundopp/fundopp.asp](http://www.aoa.gov/doingbus/fundopp/fundopp.asp) or [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), or call 202/357-3464.

### **Center Solicits Nominations for Public Health Topics**

See the Federal Register dated **May 31** (Vol. 71, No. 104). Go to “Centers of Disease Control and Prevention” and see “Notices, Community Prevention Services.” This notice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) invites individuals and organizations to nominate public health topic areas for the Task Force on Community Prevention Services. This task force is an independent panel of experts that makes evidence-based recommendations regarding the use of population-based interventions which are selected from broad topic areas. The findings from these reviews are published in peer-reviewed journals and made available through the Community Guide Website [www.thecommunityguide.org](http://www.thecommunityguide.org). Nominations for public health topic areas must be no more than 250 words long, and must be submitted by **June 23** to be considered for 2006-2008. Topics reviewed to date include diabetes, physical activity, mental health, nutrition and obesity. For more information, e-mail to [pbriss@cdc.gov](mailto:pbriss@cdc.gov) or [dsherman@cdc.gov](mailto:dsherman@cdc.gov).

### **IRS Seeks Applications for Tax Counseling Program for the Elderly**

See the Federal Register dated **June 1** (Vol. 71, No. 105). Go to “Internal Revenue Service” and see “Notices, Grants.” This notice from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announces the availability of application packages for the 2007 Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) Program. The TCE Program allows the IRS to enter into cooperative agreements with private or public nonprofit agencies or organizations to establish a network of trained volunteers to provide free tax information and tax return preparation assistance to elders who are age 60 or older at the end of their taxable year. Cooperative agreements will be entered into based upon competition among eligible agencies and organizations. Once funded, sponsoring agencies and organizations will receive a grant from the IRS for administrative expenses, and to reimburse volunteers for expenses incurred in training and in providing tax return assistance. Application packages may be requested by contacting the IRS at 5000 Ellin Road, Lanham, MD 20706, Attention: Program Manager, Tax Counseling for the Elderly Program. The deadline for submitting grant applications is **August 1**. For more information, call 202/283-0189.

### **AoA to fund NMAO Technical Assistance Centers**

See the Federal Register dated **June 2** (Vol. 71, No. 106). Go to “Aging Administration”

and see “Grants.” This notice from the Administration on Aging (AoA) announces it will award approximately four new grants, totaling \$1,069,186.00, to fund National Minority Aging Organization Technical Assistance Centers (NMAOs). They are to promote improvement of the health status of racial and ethnic minority older individuals by increasing the efficiency of the NMAO Technical Assistance Centers Program to disseminate culturally competent health promotion and disease prevention information. The NMAQ Technical Assistance Centers also will be for the development of culturally competent and linguistically appropriate front line ethnic minority older individuals. Projects will develop practical, nontraditional and community-based interventions for reaching senior adults who experience barriers to accessing home and community-based services due to language and low literacy, as well as other barriers related to cultural diversity. The grants are open to public and private nonprofit agencies and organizations with a nationally known presence, and the capacity to reach one of the target populations on a nationwide basis. Grant applications must be received by **July 14**, and grant recipients must contribute at least 25 percent of the total program costs. For more information, go to [www.aoa.gov/doingbus/fundopp.asp](http://www.aoa.gov/doingbus/fundopp.asp)

### **AoA Proposes Modifications to Program Performance Report**

See the Federal Register dated **June 16** (Vol. 71, No. 116). Go to “Aging Administration” and see “Notices, Aging information collection activities.” This notice from the Administration on Aging (AoA) proposes modifications to the Program Performance Report. It provides a data base for the AoA to (1) monitor program achievement of performance objectives; (2) establish program policy and direction; and (3) prepare responses to Congress, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the General Accounting Office, other federal departments, and public and private agencies as required by the Older Americans Act (OAA). It also provides data for the Federal Interagency Task Force on Older Indians, pursuant to amendments established pursuant to the OAA. The deadline for submitting comments is **July 17**. For more information, call 202/357-3501 or e-mail to [Yvonne.jackson@aoa.gov](mailto:Yvonne.jackson@aoa.gov).

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### **LEGISLATION SUMMARY (May 29 – June 16)**

The following bills are listed for informational/educational purposes only. The list does not constitute OSA support or endorsement. Nor does it indicate the critical bills OSA considers to be of priority. All of this information is current, as of the date of this issue. But it is subject to change at any time through legislative action.

For more information about the content and legislative history of a particular bill, go to [www.legislature.mi.gov](http://www.legislature.mi.gov) (the Michigan Legislature website) and enter the bill number in the box under “Legislative Bill Search.” Then click on “Go!” and the status page of the bill will appear with current information about the bill. Click on a “PDF” or “TXT” box for a copy of the latest version of the bill, or a House or Senate analysis of the bill.

The Michigan Legislature website ([www.michiganlegislature.org](http://www.michiganlegislature.org)) is a free service of the Legislative Internet Technology Team in cooperation with the Michigan Legislative Council, the Michigan House of Representatives, and the Michigan Senate. Also, call the Michigan Law Library at 517/373-0630 for legal research questions.

If you have a question or opinion about any of these bills, contact your state legislator. Also, you may call OSA Director **Sharon Gire** at 517/373-7876 or e-mail her at [osadirector@michigan.gov](mailto:osadirector@michigan.gov).

### **New House Bills (May 29 – June 16)**

#### **House Bill (HB) 6189 of 2006**

Communications; telecommunications; amendments to the emergency telephone service enabling act; provide for (service charge for 2-1-1 service). Amends Public Act (PA) 32 of 1986. Sponsored by **Rep. George Cushingberry, Jr.** (D-Detroit) and co-sponsored by no others. Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Technology 6-13-06.

#### **House Bill (HB) 6190 of 2006**

Crimes; embezzlement; certain penalties for embezzlement from a vulnerable adult; increase. Amends Public Act (PA) 328 of 1931. Sponsored by **Rep. Steve Bieda** (D-Warren) and co-sponsored by five others. Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary 6-13-06.

#### **House Bill (HB) 6193 of 2006**

Elections; absent voters; absent voter ballot; issue upon voter's request without requiring justification. Amends Public Act (PA) 116 of 1954. Sponsored by **Rep. Mary Waters** (D-Detroit) and co-sponsored by no others. Referred to the House Committee on House Oversight, Elections, and Ethics 6-14-06.

#### **House Bill (HB) 6200 of 2006**

Law enforcement; law enforcement information network (LEIN); reports of missing endangered seniors; revise procedures for. Amends Public Act (PA) 319 of 1968. Tie barred with HB 6201 (which means neither bill can take effect unless both do). Sponsored by **Rep. Tupac Hunter** (D-Detroit) and co-sponsored by 27 others. Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary 6-14-06.

#### **House Bill (HB) 6201**

Law enforcement; reports; senior medical alert program; provide for. Creates new act. Tie barred with HB 6200 (which means neither bill can take effect unless both do). Sponsored by **Rep. Steve Tobocman** (D-Detroit) and co-sponsored by 27 others. Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary 6-14-06.

#### **House Bill (HB) 6209 of 2006**

Property tax; exemptions; certain nonprofit businesses that provide services to persons with disabilities; provide for exemption. Amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Rep. Jerry Kooiman** (R-Grand Rapids) and co-sponsored by 18 others. Referred to the House Committee on Tax Policy 6-15-06.

#### **House Bill (HB) 6211 of 2006**

Property tax; assessments; property transferred to owner's child; exclude from definition of transfer of ownership. Amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Rep. John Stakoe** (R-Highland) and co-sponsored by six others. Referred to the House Committee on Tax Policy 6-15-06.

### **New Senate Bills**

(May 29 – June 16)

**Senate Bill 1299 of 2006**

Natural resources; fishing; fishing license discounts; extend to individuals with physical disabilities. Amends Public Act (PA) 451 of 1994. Sponsored by **Sen. Beverly S. Hammerstrom** (R-Temperance) and co-sponsored by no others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs 6-13-06.

**Bills that have Moved**

(May 29 – June 16)

House Bill **(HB) 5348** of 2005, House Bill **(HB) 5349** of 2005, House Bill **(HB) 5602** of 2006, House Bill **(HB) 5630** of 2006, House Bill **(HB) 5631** of 2006, House Bill **(HB) 5672** of 2006, House Bill **(HB) 5962** of 2006, Senate Bill **(SB) 65** of 2005, Senate Bill **(SB) 229** of 2005, Senate Bill **(SB) 230** of 2005, Senate Bill **(SB) 420** of 2005, Senate Bill **(SB) 1083** of 2006, Senate Bill **(SB) 1090** of 2006, Senate Bill **(SB) 1172** of 2006, Senate Bill **(SB) 1255** of 2006, Senate Bill **(SB) 1279** of 2006 and Senate Bill **(SB) 6032** of 2006.

**House Bill (HB) 5348 of 2005**

This bill would bring long-term care coverage provided by Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBS) under the code (and repeal long-term care provisions in the act governing BCBS), and would specifically include assisted living facilities as a setting where services covered by long-term care insurance could be provided. Amends Public Act (PA) 218 of 1956. Sponsored by **Rep. Kevin Green** (R-Wyoming) and co-sponsored by 10 others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 10-20-05. Passed by the House 6-8-06. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 6-13-06.

**House Bill (HB) 5349 of 2005**

This bill would amend Chapter 39 of the Insurance Code, which deals with long-term care insurance, to make a number of amendments that incorporate features of a model act developed by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. The amendments would add consumer protections, including requiring policies to contain nonforfeiture benefits and contingent benefits to prevent the loss of coverage when policy premiums increase; revise rate-making regulations; and address agent training requirements. Amends Public Act (PA) 218 of 1956. Sponsored by **Rep. Paula Zelenko** (D-Burton) and co-sponsored by 36 others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 10-20-05. Passed by the House 6-8-06. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 6-13-06.

**House Bill (HB) 5602 of 2006**

This bill would revise language concerning an order for grandparenting time. It also would amend the Michigan Adoption Code to make an exception to a provision under which an adoptee is no longer the heir of a parent whose paternal rights have been terminated; the exception would apply to a child adopted by the spouse of a natural parent, as provided under the Estates and Protected Individuals Code (EPIC). Amends Public Act (PA) 288 of 1939. Tie barred with Senate Bill (SB) 420 of 2005 (which means neither bill can take effect unless both do). Sponsored by **Rep. Tonya Schuitmaker** (R-Lawton) and co-sponsored by two others. Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary 1-24-06. House substitute bill adopted 2-15-06. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 2-16-06. Referred to the Senate Committee on

Judiciary 2-21-06. Senate substitute bill as amended concurred in by the Senate 6-6-06. Passed by the Senate and given immediate effect 6-7-06.

**House Bill (HB) 5630 of 2006**

See **Public Act (PA) 163 of 2006** (below).

**House Bill (HB) 5631 of 2006**

See **Public Act (PA) 157 of 2006** (below).

**House Bill (HB) 5962 of 2006**

This bill would amend the Nonprofit Health Care Corporation Act, which regulates Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBS). This act requires BCBS to use reasonable care to secure records from unauthorized access to ensure the confidentiality of records containing personal information, and to collect only personal data necessary for proper review and payment of claims. This bill would apply this restriction to personal data necessary for health care operations, treatment and research. The act also prohibits BCBS from disclosing records containing personal data that may be associated with an identifiable member, or concerning a member, without that members written consent. This bill would make an exception for health care operations, treatment, research, payment, and health oversight activities. This bill also would specify that compliance with the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA), and regulations promulgated under that act, would satisfy the confidentiality requirements. Amends Public Act (PA) 350 of 406. Sponsored by **Rep. Joe Hune** (R-Hamburg) and co-sponsored by three others. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 4-25-06. Passed by the House 5-17-06. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 5-18-06. Passed by the Senate and given immediate effect 6-7-06. Bill ordered enrolled 6-7-06. Presented to the Governor 6-12-06.

**House Bill (HB) 6032 of 2006**

This bill would amend the Patient's Right to Independent Review Act. This act enables persons with health insurance to request a review by an independent review organization to resolve disputes over covered benefits. This bill would clarify that the term "health carrier" would exclude a state department or agency that administered a plan of medical assistance under the Social Welfare Act (Medicaid). Amends Public Act (PA) 251 of 2000. Sponsored by **Rep. Roger Kahn** (R-Saginaw Township) and co-sponsored by 13 others. Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 5-4-06. Referred to second reading 6-13-06.

**Senate Bill (SB) 65 (2005)**

This bill would amend the General Property Tax Act to allow a local governing body to exempt certain nonprofit-owned single family dwellings or duplexes from the property tax for two years or until the ownership of the property is transferred, whichever comes first. Amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by Sen. Ron Jelinek (R-Three Oaks) and co-sponsored by four others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance 1-25-05. Referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole with Senate substitute bill 6-20-06.

**Senate Bill (SB) 229 of 2005**

This bill and Senate Bill (SB) 230 would amend the Nonprofit Health Care Corporation Reform Act and the Insurance Code, respectively, to require that benefits for mental health services be issued by health insurance providers, health maintenance organizations (HMOs and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) not be

more restrictive than benefits for social services. Amends Public Act (PA) 350 of 1980. Sponsored by **Sen. Beverly S. Hammerstrom** (R-Temperance) and co-sponsored by 10 others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 2-22-05. Referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole with a Senate substitute bill 6-1-06.

#### **Senate Bill (SB) 230 of 2005**

This bill and Senate Bill (SB) 229 would amend the Nonprofit Health Care Corporation Reform Act and the Insurance Code, respectively, to require that benefits for mental health services be issued by health insurance providers, health maintenance organizations (HMOs and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) not be more restrictive than benefits for social services. Amends Public Act (PA) 350 of 1980. Sponsored by **Sen. Beverly S. Hammerstrom** (R-Temperance) and co-sponsored by 10 others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 2-22-05. Referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole with a Senate substitute bill 6-1-06.

#### **Senate Bill (SB) 420 of 2005**

This bill would amend the Child Custody Act to limit grandparenting time actions in stepparent adoption situations to grandparents whose own child is deceased. Amends Public Act (PA) 91 of 1970. Tie barred with Senate Bill (SB) 420 of 2005 (which means neither bill can take effect unless both do). Sponsored by **Sen. Irma Clark-Coleman** (D-Detroit) and co-sponsored by 19 others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs 4-26-05. Senate substitute bill concurred in by the Senate 6-6-06. Passed by the Senate 6-7-06. Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary 6-7-06. Referred to second reading 6-14-06.

#### **Senate Bill (SB) 1083 of 2006**

Appropriations; community health; Department of Community Health; provide for fiscal year 2006-2007. Creates appropriation act. Sponsored by **Sen. Deborah Cherry** (D-Burton) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 2-28-06. Senate substitute bill as amended concurred in 3-28-06. Passed by the Senate 3-28-06. Referred to the House Committee on Appropriations 3-30-06. House substitute bill adopted 5-31-06. Passed by the House 5-31-06. Returned to the Senate 5-31-06. House substitute bill nonconcurred in by the Senate 6-6-06. Senate names conferees: **Sen. Tony Stamas** (R-Midland), **Sen. Thomas George** (R-Portage) and **Sen. Deborah Cherry** (D-Burton). House names conferees: **Rep. Bruce Caswell** (R-Hillsdale), **Rep. Roger Kahn** (R-Saginaw Township) and **Rep. Alma Wheeler Smith** (D-Ypsilanti). Referred to the Conference Committee 6-13-06.

#### **Senate Bill (SB) 1090 of 2006**

Appropriations; human services; Department of Human Services; provide for fiscal year 2006-2007. Creates appropriation act. Sponsored by **Sen. Martha Scott** (D-Detroit) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 2-28-06. Senate substitute bill, as amended, concurred in by the Senate 5-24-06. Amendments adopted 5-24-06. Passed by the Senate 5-24-06. Immediate effect defeated 5-24-06. Referred to the House Committee on Appropriations 5-24-06. House substitute bill adopted 5-31-06. Passed by the House 5-31-06. Returned to the Senate 5-31-06. House substitute bill nonconcurred in by the Senate 6-6-06. Senate names conferees: **Sen. Bill Hardiman** (R-Kentwood), **Sen. Thomas George** (R-Portage) and **Sen. Martha Scott** (D-Highland Park). House names conferees: **Rep. Rick Shaffer** (R-Three Rivers), **Rep. Roger Kahn** (R-Saginaw Township) and **Rep. Chris Kolb** (D-Ann Arbor). Referred to the Conference Committee 6-13-06. Senate names **Rep. Shaffer** to serve as Chair of the Conference Committee 6-13-06.

### **Senate Bill (SB) 1172 of 2006**

This bill would amend the Emergency Telephone Service Enabling Act to require the State 911 Director, by December 1, 2006 to delay the Act's 12-31-06 sunset until 12-31-07; issue to the Legislature and the Governor a report making recommendations for stable, equitable long-term funding of the State's 9-1-1 system; and require that the report contain a recommendation that any 9-1-1 fees collected from communications providers be assessed in a competitively neutral manner. Amends Public Act (PA) 32 of 1986. Sponsored by **Sen. Cameron Brown** (R-Sturgis) and co-sponsored by no others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Technology and Energy 3-21-06. Senate substitute bill concurred in by the Senate 5-10-06. Amendments adopted 5-11-06. Passed by the Senate 5-11-06. Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Technology 5-11-06. House substitute bill adopted 6-8-06. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 6-13-06. Returned to the Senate 6-13-06. House substitute bill concurred in by the Senate 6-15-06. Given immediate effect by the Senate 6-15-06. Bill ordered enrolled 6-15-06.

### **Senate Bill (SB) 1255 of 2006**

This bill would amend the Social Welfare Act to require the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) to submit Medicaid state plan amendments and include language in any waiver application related to the proposed Michigan First Health Care Plan submitted to the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to permit the State of Michigan to make the following changes to the Medicaid program: First, use Medicaid funds to create an incentive program for Medicaid recipients. The program would modify program benefits or cost-sharing for recipients who practiced positive health behavior. Second, permit the MDCH to create a pay-for-performance program for health maintenance organizations (HMOs). Third, permit the MDCH to work with Medicaid HMOs and provider organizations to create a preferred provider program for durable medical equipment. Fourth, permit the MDCH to use Medicaid funds to provide financial support for health information technology initiatives. Amends Public Act (PA) 280 of 1939. Sponsored by **Sen. Tom George** (R-Portage) and co-sponsored by 13 others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 5-9-06. Senate substitute bill as amended concurred in by the Senate 5-31-06. Passed the Senate 6-1-06. Referred to the House Committee on Appropriations 6-6-06.

### **Senate Bill (SB) 1279 of 2006**

This bill would amend the Nonprofit Corporation Act to permit the use of electronic communication. It would specify that, when a notice is required or permitted by the Act to be given in writing, electronic transmission would be written notice; allow notice of meetings to be electronically transmitted; allow a board of directors to conduct a meeting of shareholders or members solely by means of remote communication; specify conditions under which a shareholder or member could participate in a meeting and vote by means of remote communication; allow a corporation's bylaws to permit voting by electronic transmission; describe conditions under which shareholders and members could consent by electronic transmission to actions taken without a meeting; and allow a board or committee to consent by electronic transmission to action taken without a meeting. This bill also defines "electronic transmission" or "electronically transmitted." Amends Public Act (PA) 162 of 1982. Sponsored by **Sen. Alan Sanborn** (R-Richmond). Referred to the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Small Business and Regulatory Reform 5-23-06. Amendments concurred in by the Senate 6-7-06. Passed by the Senate 6-8-06. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 6-8-06.

## 2005 Public Acts

### **Public Act (PA) 24 of 2005 House Bill (HB) 4188 of 2005**

This bill amends the General Property Tax Act to increase from \$25,000 to \$35,000 the maximum household income of a taxpayer 62 years old, or older, who may defer the collection of summer property taxes, and to remove the income limit for other taxpayers eligible for the summer tax collection deferral. It amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Rep. Tory Rocca** (R-Sterling Heights) and co-sponsored by 72 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 5-23-05, and assigned PA 24 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

### **Public Act (PA) 72 of 2005 House Bill (HB) 4434 of 2005**

This bill amends the Public Health Code to provide that pharmacies that shared a real-time, online database or other equivalent means of communication, or pharmacies that transferred prescriptions pursuant to a written contract for centralized prescription processing services, would not have to follow the procedure established in the Code to refill a copy of a prescription from another pharmacy. It amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Scott Hummel** (R-DeWitt) and co-sponsored by 82 others, this bill was tie-barred with SB 352 (which meant neither could take effect unless both did). It was **approved by Gov. Granholm 7-19-05, and assigned PA 72 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

### **Public Act (PA) 73 of 2005 Senate Bill (SB) 352 of 2005**

This bill amends the Public Health Code to allow a pharmacy to perform centralized prescription processing services or outsource those services to another pharmacy if certain conditions are met. It amends Public Act 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Sen. Bill Hardiman** (R-Kentwood) and co-sponsored by 23 others, this bill was tie-barred with HB 4434 (which meant neither could take effect unless both did). It was **approved by Gov. Granholm 8-31-05, and assigned PA 73 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

### **Public Act (PA) 85 of 2005 House Bill (HB) 4405 of 2005**

This bill amends the Public Health Code to eliminate the authority of a disciplinary subcommittee to impose sanctions against a pharmacist for employing the mail to sell, distribute, or deliver a drug that requires a prescription when the prescription for the drug is received by mail. It amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Gretchen Whitmer** (D-East Lansing) and co-sponsored by 63 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 7-20-05, and assigned PA 85 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

### **Public Act (PA) 109 of 2005 House Bill (HB) 4436 of 2005**

Appropriations; zero budget; supplemental appropriations; provide for fiscal year 2004-2005. This bill increases private funds authorization for OSA \$75,000 to recognize private contributions for administering the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program for Seniors, or Project FRESH. Federal funds support the food costs, and the administrative costs must be supported by the state and other contributors. It creates a new appropriations act. Sponsored by **Rep. Scott Hummel** (R-DeWitt) and co-sponsored by no others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 9-15-05, and assigned**

**PA 109 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

**Public Act (PA) 114 of 2005**

**Senate Bill (SB) 348 of 2005**

The General Property Tax Act requires local tax collecting units that collect a summer property tax to defer the collection, at the taxpayer's request, until the following February 15 for the principal residence of taxpayers with a household income of \$35,000 or less. To be eligible for the deferment, a taxpayer must be totally and permanently disabled, blind, paraplegic, quadriplegic, or an eligible serviceperson or an eligible veteran (or be the widow or widower of such a person). The deferment is also available to taxpayers who are at least 62 years of age, or the unremarried surviving spouse of a person who was at least 62 years of age at time of death. This bill eliminates the income requirement for these taxpayers, except for taxpayers who are at least 62 years of age, or the unremarried surviving spouse of a person who was at least 62 years of age at the time of death. For those taxpayers, the income threshold will increase to \$37,500 for the 2006 tax year and to \$40,000 for the 2007 tax year and beyond. It amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Sen. Nancy Cassis** (R-Nov) and co-sponsored by four others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 9-21-05, and assigned PA 114 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

**Public Act (PA) 147 of 2005**

**Senate Bill (SB) 271 of 2005**

Appropriations; Family Independence Agency (now the Department of Human Services); provide for fiscal year 2005-2006. Creates a new appropriations act. Sponsored by **Sen. Martha Scott** (D-Detroit) and co-sponsored by one other, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 10-5-05 with line-items vetoed, and assigned PA 147 with immediate effect.**

**Public Act (PA) 154 of 2005**

**House Bill (HB) 4831 OF 2005**

Appropriations; other; zero budget appropriations bill; provide for fiscal years 2005 and 2006. Creates a new appropriations act. Sponsored by **Rep. Scott Hummel** (R-DeWitt) and co-sponsored by no others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 10-5-05 with line items vetoed, and assigned PA 154 with immediate effect.**

**Public Act (PA) 161 of 2005**

**House Bill (HB) 4996 OF 2005**

Under provisions of the Public Health Code, dental hygienists, under the supervision of a dentist, can now provide dental hygiene services to patients who have not first been examined by a dentist as part of a program for "dentally underserved" patients conducted by a local, state, or federal grantee health agency. This bill amends the Public Health Code to revise the criteria for designation as a grantee health agency to include, for example, a public or nonprofit entity, or a school or nursing home that administers a program of dental care to a dentally underserved population. It amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Barb Vander Veen** (R-Allendale) and co-sponsored by 36 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 10-4-05, and assigned PA 161 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

**Public Act (PA) 187 of 2005**

**House Bill (HB) 5055 OF 2005**

This bill modifies the nursing home and hospital Quality Assurance Assessment Programs (QAAPs) to extend sunsets, reflect the amount of tax retained by the State,

and changes the way the nursing home QAAP is assessed. The QAAP includes county-owned nursing homes for the first time. It amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Bruce Caswell** (R-Hillsdale) and co-sponsored by no others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 10-27-05, and assigned PA 187 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

**Public Act (PA) 338 of 2005**  
**Senate Bill (SB) 529 OF 2005**

This bill makes homestead facilities eligible for residential tax abatements under the Neighborhood Enterprise Zone Act. Before this bill became law, the act applied only to newly constructed and rehabilitated residential housing. This bill applies to other existing residences purchased since December 31, 1997. The homestead facility will receive a property tax abatement equal to one-half of the property taxes levied for operating purposes on the building by the local unit and the county. It amends Public Act 147 of 1992. Sponsored by **Sen. Martha Scott** (D-Highland Park) and co-sponsored by no others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 12/31/05, and assigned PA 338 with immediate effect.**

**Public Act (PA) 339 of 2005**  
**Senate Bill (SB) 530 OF 2005**

This bill makes homestead facilities eligible for residential tax abatements under the Neighborhood Enterprise Zone Act. Before this bill became law, the act applied only to newly constructed and rehabilitated residential housing. This bill applies to other existing residences purchased since December 31, 1997. The homestead facility will receive a property tax abatement equal to one-half of the property taxes levied for operating purposes on the building by the local unit and the county. It amends Public Act (PA) 147 of 1992. Sponsored by **Sen. Samuel Thomas III** (D-Detroit) and co-sponsored by no others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 12-31-05, and assigned PA 339 with immediate effect.**

## 2006 Public Acts

**Public Act (PA) 24 of 2006**  
**House Bill (HB) 4670 of 2005**

This bill amends the Public Health Code to allow an individual who is retired from the active practice of medicine, osteopathic medicine and surgery, or podiatric medicine, and who wishes to donate his or her expertise for the medical care and treatment of indigent and needy individuals or individuals in medically underserved areas of the state, to obtain a special volunteer license to practice by submitting an application to the applicable board. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Gary Newell** (R-Saranac) and co-sponsored by 22 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 2-16-06, and assigned PA 24 of 2006 with immediate effect.**

**Public Act (PA) 25 of 2006**  
**House Bill (HB) 5375 of 2005**

This bill amends the Public Health Code to provide for civil immunity for retired physicians who volunteer their services at a health facility or agency serving the medically indigent. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Gary Newell** (R-Saranac) and co-sponsored by 17 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 2-16-06, and assigned PA 25 of 2006 with immediate effect.**

**Public Act (PA) 26 of 2006**

### **House Bill (HB) 5168 of 2005**

This bill amends the Public Health Code to require an applicant for a health profession license or registration, or for reinstatement or reclassification of a license or registration, to undergo a criminal background check. In addition, the bill allows a licensing board for good cause to request a licensee or registrant to have a criminal background check. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Paula Zelenko** (D-Burton) and co-sponsored by 50 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 2-16-05, and assigned PA 26 of 2006 with immediate effect.**

### **Public Act (PA) 27 of 2006**

#### **House Bill (HB) 5448 of 2005**

This bill amends the mental health code to require criminal history checks on individuals seeking employment, an independent contract, or clinical privileges with a psychiatric facility or immediate care facility for people with mental retardation. Amends Public Act (PA) 258 of 1974. It is tie-barred with HB 5168, SB 621 and SB 622. Sponsored by **Rep. Barb Vander Veen** (R-Allendale) and co-sponsored by 47 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 2-16-05, and assigned PA 27 of 2006 with immediate effect.**

### **Public Act (PA) 28 of 2006**

#### **Senate Bil (SB) 621 of 2005**

This bill expands the requirements for criminal background checks for new employees at health facilities and agencies, as well as individuals seeking clinical privileges and independent contracts. It adds two sections to the Public Health Code that applies to a health facility or agency that is a nursing home, county medical facility, hospice, hospital that provides swing bed services, home for the aged, or home health agency. In each case, a request will be made to the Department of State Police to conduct a criminal history check and to forward fingerprints into the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) database, and to forward fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The State Police will have to request the FBI to make a determination of any national criminal history pertaining to an applicant for employment. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. It is tie-barred with HB 5168, HB 5448 and SB 622. Sponsored by **Sen. Patricia L. Birkholz** (R-Saugatuck) and co-sponsored by six others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 2-21-06, and assigned PA 28 of 2006 with immediate effect.**

### **Public Act (PA) 29 of 2006**

#### **Senate Bill (SB) 622 of 2005**

This bill expands the requirements for criminal background checks for new employees at foster care facilities, as well as individuals seeking clinical privileges and independent contracts. It amends the Adult Foster Care Facility. In each case, a request will be made to the Department of State Police to conduct a criminal history check and to forward fingerprints into the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) database, and to forward fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The State Police will have to request the FBI to make a determination of any national criminal history pertaining to an applicant for employment. Amends Public Act (PA) 218 of 1979. It is tie-barred with HB 5168, HB 5448 and SB 621. Sponsored by **Sen. Tony Stamas** (R-Midland) and co-sponsored by six others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 2-21-06, and assigned PA 29 of 2006 with immediate effect.**

### **Public Act (PA) 38 of 2006**

#### **House Bill (HB) 4606 of 2005**

The bill amends the Public Health Code to require a health facility's or agency's policy describing patient or resident rights and responsibilities to include references to the Medical Records Access Act and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Stephen Adamini** (D-Marquette) and co-sponsored by one other, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 3-2-06, and assigned PA 38 of 2006.**

**Public Act (PA) 133 of 2006**  
**House Bill (HB) 4423 of 2005**

This bill would amend the public act which regulates home solicitation sales to provide that it would be an unfair or deceptive act or practice and a violation of the act for a telephone solicitor to misrepresent in a message left for a consumer on his or her answering machine or voice mail that he or she had a current business matter or transaction, or a current business or customer relationship with the solicitor or another person, and request that the consumer call the solicitor of another person to discuss that matter, transaction or relationship. Amends Public Act (PA) 227 of 1971. Sponsored by **Rep. Lisa Wojno** (D-Warren) and co-sponsored by 12 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 5-10-06, and assigned Public Act (PA) 133 of 2006.**

**Public Act (PA) 137 of 2006**  
**House Bill (HB) 5336 of 2005**

This bill would add Part 25 (Health Information Technology) to the Public Health Code to create the Health Information Technology Commission within the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) to facilitate and promote the design, implementation, operation, and maintenance of an interoperable health care information infrastructure in Michigan. Sponsored by **Rep. Gary Newell** (R-Saranac) and co-sponsored by 39 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 5-10-06, and assigned Public Act (PA) 137 of 2006.**

**Public Act (PA) 144 of 2006**  
**Senate Bill (SB) 838 of 2005**

This bill amends the Social Welfare Act by eliminating the provision that defines caretaker relatives and 19 and 20 year-olds who meet certain requirements as medically indigent, and therefore, categorically eligible for Medicaid. This bill replaces references to categorical Medicaid eligibility for 19 and 20 year-olds, and caretaker relatives with language that eligibility would be subject to Title XIX eligibility standards for optional groups, subject to limitations imposed by the Director according to Title XIX. Amends Public Act 280 of 1939. Sponsored by **Sen. Robert L. Emerson** (D-Flint) and co-sponsored by no others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 5-22-06, and assigned PA 144 of 2006.**

**Public Act (PA) 157 of 2006**  
**House Bill (HB) 5631 of 2006**

This bill amends the Public Health Code to require the Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) to assist the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) in any review or update of the pandemic influenza plan, and cooperate with the MDCH Director in his or her response to certain epidemics. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Tie barred with HB 5630 of 2006 (which means neither bill can take effect unless both do). Sponsored by **Rep. Richard Ball** (R-Laingsburg) and co-sponsored by 12 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 5-25-06, and assigned PA 157 of 2006** with immediate effect.

**Public Act (PA) 163 of 2006**  
**House Bill (HB) 5630 of 2006**

This bill amends the Public Health Code to require the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) to establish and maintain a pandemic influenza plan. MDCH would have to review and update the plan at least annually. The MDCH would have to make the plan and any updates to it available to the public through the MDCH website. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Tie barred with HB 5631 of 2006 (which means neither bill can take effect unless both do). Sponsored by **Rep. Leslie Mortimer** (R-Horton) and co-sponsored by 23 others, it was approved by **Gov. Granholm 5-25-06, and assigned PA 163 of 2006** with immediate effect.

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**ABOUT RESOURCES FOR AGING**

**Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor**  
**Sharon L. Gire, OSA Director**

This electronic newsletter (e-newsletter) from the **Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)** is available at no cost.

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 and age 60 or older for policies, programs and services that benefit them and their families. OSA administers federal and state funds and manages grants for services provided by the aging network service providers.

The events/meetings, funding/grants, and other resources described in Resources for Aging should not be interpreted as constituting OSA endorsement. This information is presented for informational/educational purposes only.

Please help spread the word about this free resource for aging to those in the aging network and others who are interested.

If you or others wish to receive it directly by e-mail, send a request by e-mail to writer/editor **David Dekker** at [dekkerd@michigan.gov](mailto:dekkerd@michigan.gov). Please include name, e-mail address, telephone number, city and organization/agency (if any).

Comments and suggestions are appreciated. Also, readers are invited to submit information to be considered for publication. Please send to [dekkerd@michigan.gov](mailto:dekkerd@michigan.gov) or to Resources for Aging, P.O. Box 30676, Lansing, MI 48909-8176.

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