



Connecting Older Adults with Community-based Resources and Options

**Report to Funded Agencies  
Winter 2011**

**What's New**

**Care Transitions** –Our proposal to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to expand the Bridge care transition program into high readmission rate hospitals has been approved with conditions. The proposal includes Aging Care Connections, Solutions for Care, Rush Older Adult Programs, Shawnee Alliance for Seniors, the Kenneth Young Center, North Shore Senior Center, PLOWS Council on Aging and Health and Medicine Policy Research Group. Rob Mapes and Katie Schmit are the primary contacts at AgeOptions for this project and can be reached at [robert.mapes@ageoptions.org](mailto:robert.mapes@ageoptions.org) or [katie.schmit@ageoptions.org](mailto:katie.schmit@ageoptions.org).

**Money Follows the Person** – AgeOptions received new grant from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services for the money follows the person component of the ADRC project. The program will take place at three Illinois area agencies on aging and each AAA will receive funding for a full-time LCSW Social Worker to assist with MFP outreach, referral and transitions.

**Updates**

**Chronic Disease Self Management Programs (CDSMP)/Take Charge of Your Health** – AgeOptions is entering the last quarter of our stipend funding to agencies that host CDSMP programs and for class leaders that facilitate the workshops. Agencies must schedule their workshops to start no later than March 15, 2012 in order to be eligible for stipends. Funding for stipends is limited. If you are a IID Take Charge of Your Health site you must complete your required workshops before being eligible for stipend funding.

AgeOptions is recruiting workshop host sites for early Spring 2012. Please send suggestions to Annette McClain, Outreach Specialist for the Take Charge of Your Health programs at [annette.mcclain@ageoptions.org](mailto:annette.mcclain@ageoptions.org).

Information on the upcoming class leader trainings can be found in the Upcoming Events/Training section of this update. For more information, please contact Marilyn Cramton at (708)383-0258 or [marilyn.cramton@ageoptions.org](mailto:marilyn.cramton@ageoptions.org).

**Make Medicare Work Coalition (MMW)** – In December, the products of two important MMW collaborative efforts were released nationally. The first is a video that was the result of a joint project between the MMW and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS);

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Terri Gendel worked on the script, JulieAnn Chavez (Progress Center for Independent Living) appeared on screen, Kris Sadur (Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky's office) helped move the project to completion, and CMS produced it. The informational video, on the basics of Medicare, is in American Sign Language (ASL) with large type captions and voice-over narration. It is posted on the Medicare website at [www.medicare.gov/multilanguage.aspx](http://www.medicare.gov/multilanguage.aspx) and on YouTube at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=eskZVAg7v0o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eskZVAg7v0o). It has also been posted on many websites all over the country.

In December we also released a toolkit of materials in partnership with the Medicare Rights Center in New York, *How Medicare Works with Employer-Based Health Insurance: A Guide for Employers, Professionals and Consumers*. It is posted on the AgeOptions ([www.ageoptions.org](http://www.ageoptions.org)) and Medicare Rights Center's websites. The work is the result of an up-surge in questions to help lines across the country from people who are confused about when to sign up for Medicare Part B while they are working, on COBRA, or retired.

Additionally, please be aware that the annual Medicare Advantage Disenrollment Period runs from January 1 – February 14, 2012. During this period, people in Medicare Advantage plans (like HMOs and PPOs) may switch back to Original Medicare. No other switching is allowed.

For more information on MMW, contact Terri Gendel or Georgia Gerdes at (708)383-0258, or [terri.gendel@ageoptions.org](mailto:terri.gendel@ageoptions.org) or [georgia.gerdes@ageoptions.org](mailto:georgia.gerdes@ageoptions.org).

**One Away** – Now that all three One Away videos were completed and posted on AgeOptions YouTube page (<http://bit.ly/tzRjzl>) the next step is to engage legislators and the general public in the campaign. The videos have been viewed by over 3300 people. The goal of the *One Away* video advocacy campaign, funded by the National Council on Aging, is to use these videos to gain support for the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. We have gained the attention of Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. He has offered his support for the Act. The *One Away* video campaign website can be found at [www.oneaway.org](http://www.oneaway.org). We are always looking for sites to show these videos to older adults and hold discussions about the topic of economic security. To find out more about hosting an event, please contact Maribeth Stein at (708)383-0258 or [maribeth.stein@ageoptions.org](mailto:maribeth.stein@ageoptions.org).

**Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)** – AgeOptions Title V participants are eligible to return to a 20 hour per week work schedule, effective immediately. While the hours for current participants have increased, the freeze on new enrollments remains in effect. AgeOptions continues to accept applications from potential applicants for our waiting list. Please contact Marissa Burack, Employment Coordinator, with any questions: [marissa.burack@ageoptions.org](mailto:marissa.burack@ageoptions.org).

**Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP)** AgeOptions worked with the Coalition of Limited English Speaking Elderly (CLESE) to translate our home health and DME fraud tip sheets into 11 non-English languages. These tip sheets are available on our website, [www.illinoismp.org](http://www.illinoismp.org). To receive information or materials on home health or durable medical equipment fraud, contact the Illinois SMP staff at AgeOptions.

AgeOptions releases weekly SMP “Fraud Alerts” on Fridays with current news and information about Medicare and Medicaid fraud as well as other consumer fraud issues. Past Fraud Alert emails are available on our website: <http://www.ageoptions.org/whatwedo/SMPFraudAlerts.cfm>.

If you would like to receive these weekly alerts via email, please contact Erin Weir at (708)383-0258 or [erin.weir@ageoptions.org](mailto:erin.weir@ageoptions.org).

## **Year End Reports**

**Elder Abuse** – AgeOptions network of Elder Abuse Provider Agencies (EAPA) investigated 1,687 reports of elder abuse in suburban Cook County in FY 11. This is a 3.5% increase over the number of intakes in FY10 (1,629) but a 3% decrease over FY09 (1,742) intake numbers.

The number one form of reported elder abuse in suburban Cook County during FY 11 was financial exploitation (49.3%) followed by passive neglect (42.3%) and emotional abuse (41.3%).

To report a possible case of elder abuse, contact the Illinois Department on Aging’s Elder Abuse hotline at (866)800-1409. If you have any questions about the Elder Abuse Program contact Katie Schmit at (708)383-0258 or [katie.schmit@ageoptions.org](mailto:katie.schmit@ageoptions.org).

**Flexible Senior Services (FSS)** – In FY 11 Area 13 expended 99.85% of allocated FSS Funds. 85% of the FY 2012 FSS funds were distributed to providers on December 20, 2011 – a total of \$251,600. FSS funds can be used for personal health and hygiene products, transportation, dental care, vision care, emergency grocery and food needs, hearing aids, medication, emergency utility assistance, housing assistance, and minor home repairs to name a few. We encourage Care Coordination Units to expend all of their FSS allocations in FY 12.

If you have any questions about FSS, contact Katie Schmit at (708)383-0258 or [katie.schmit@ageoptions.org](mailto:katie.schmit@ageoptions.org).

**NAPIS** – See chart below for an overview of NAPIS numbers. From last fiscal year, there has been a minor decline (-5%) in the number of clients served throughout Title III B. However, there has been a 2.3% increase to the amount of units provided to those clients. Title III-C Nutrition Programs (both Congregate and Home Delivered Meals) have likewise remained within 3% of last year’s numbers.

This year we began collecting Title III-E Caregiver information in NAPIS and that has decreased our client counts largely due to the overlap of clients between the different caregiver services. These had previously been hand counted which did not allow for an accounting of duplicate clients. In FY 11 224 clients and 5,284 units of service were served by Title III-E.

Title 3B Services	CLIENTS		UNITS		% change in clients	% change in units
	fy10	fy11	fy10	fy11		
CPoE / I&A	62,244	59,686	187,167	188,458	-4.1%	0.7%
Sr. Opportunities	4,770	4,983	18,689	21,775	4.5%	14.2%
Senior Center	4,652	3,449			-25.9%	
Transportation	3,482	3,323	120,016	123,727	-4.6%	3.0%
Chore	1,405	1,358	50,429	49,083	-3.3%	-2.7%
Home Repair	287	183	421	321	-36.2%	-31.2%
Housing Assistance	249	216	2,162	2,313	-13.3%	6.5%
Friendly Visiting	97	44	1,091	1,074	-54.6%	-1.6%
Respite (Title IIB)	93	92	3,312	3,912	-1.1%	15.3%
Telephone Reassurance	38	52	1,663	3,475	36.8%	52.1%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>77,317</b>	<b>73,386</b>	<b>384,950</b>	<b>394,138</b>	<b>-5.1%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>

Title 3C Nutrition	CLIENTS		UNITS		% change in clients	% change in units
	fy10	fy11	fy10	fy11		
Congregate Meals	12,017	12,052	277,822	248,894	0.3%	-11.6%
Home Delivered Meals	4,400	4,613	655,280	656,331	4.8%	0.2%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>16,417</b>	<b>16,665</b>	<b>933,102</b>	<b>905,225</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>-3.1%</b>

### Upcoming Events/Trainings

**Advocacy Task Force Meetings** –The next meeting is scheduled for January 17 at 2:30 pm. Please contact Katie Schmit at (708)383-0258 or [katie.schmit@ageoptions.org](mailto:katie.schmit@ageoptions.org) to be added to the email list for the Task Force.

**Oro Latino** - If you are a service provider who works with Latino older adults and their caregivers in suburban Cook County, we invite you to attend the once-a-month Oro Latino meetings to exchange information, identify trends and issues, implement strategies and collaborate in creating and disseminating information that is linguistically and culturally

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appropriate. For more information or to join Oro Latino, contact Antonia D. Gámez at (708)383-0258 or [antonia.gamez@ageoptions.org](mailto:antonia.gamez@ageoptions.org).

**Take Charge of Your Health Workshop Series for Agency Staff** – AgeOptions will offer a Take Charge of Your Health workshop series at AgeOptions office for staff at our funded partner agencies and for AgeOptions staff, board and advisory council members. The workshop will take place on Tuesdays February 7<sup>th</sup> through March 13<sup>th</sup> from 5:30p.m.to 8:00p.m. Please contact Marilyn Cramton to register for the AgeOptions Take Charge series at [marilyn.cramton@ageoptions.org](mailto:marilyn.cramton@ageoptions.org)

**Take Charge of Your Diabetes Class Leader Trainings** – AgeOptions is offering free class leader trainings in the Stanford Patient Education Research Center evidence based Diabetes Self-Management Program.

The training is for volunteers and agency staff who commit to offer the classes under the program guidelines. Participants must complete all training days to be certified to facilitate six week workshops in the community. All newly certified facilitators are required to conduct two workshop series within a year after being trained. Facilitators who conduct workshops in suburban Cook County can receive stipends from AgeOptions until March 30, 2012.

Upcoming Training Dates:

- Take Charge of Your Diabetes Two Day Crossover Training: January 9-10, 2012 (Must be trained Take Charge of Your Health class leaders)
- Take Charge of Your Diabetes Four Day Class Leader Training: March 15-16 and 22-23, 2012

Trainings are from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm at AgeOptions.

Space is limited. To register for either of the Take Charge trainings contact Marilyn Cramton at (708)383-0258 or [takecharge@ageoptions.org](mailto:takecharge@ageoptions.org).