

GEC PIPELINE



March & April 2006

Volume 18, No 2, Page 1

Published as a service to the GEC network by the Wisconsin Geriatric Education Center, Marquette University, P.O. Box 1881, Milwaukee, WI 53201-1881, phone (800) 799-7878, fax (414) 288-1973, www.nagec.org or email: wgecnet@marquette.edu.

Copy edit & page layout: Julie Murphy, MAPS.

MOBILIZING THE GEC NETWORK

Elyse Perweiler, MPP, RN

Immediate Past President, NAGE and NAGEC

Chair, NAGE Legislative Committee

First, I want to thank all of you throughout the GEC network for your tireless efforts during the FY 2006 budget process. Although we were not successful in overcoming the politics surrounding the war in Iraq, hurricane Katrina, and the ballooning federal deficit, or in securing funding for geriatrics, we all learned a lot about the process and what we need to do. Our advocacy activities earned us the respect of many other organizations that were impressed by our ability to mobilize a solid grass roots initiative.

This year we embark on the long and arduous process of seeking restoration of funding for geriatrics under Title VII in the FY 2007 budget. The President's budget proposes a \$99 million reduction, thereby eliminating funding for most health professions training grants. Reference has repeatedly been made to the fact that many HRSA programs have failed to demonstrate outcomes. A recent PART (Program Assessment Rating Tool) survey further pointed out that "after 40 years of funding, Health Professions programs have not demonstrated an impact on placing health professionals in underserved areas." This is clearly an agency issue, but one that impacts on all of us. The GEC network is guided by its five statutory purposes and has been encouraged to serve minority and underserved populations through a voluntary funding preference. The reality is that most GECs provide training to health professionals in underserved areas and at least half provide training in rural areas. In addition, the elderly themselves are considered an underserved population.

HRSA has been working to collect better data on program impact and outcomes, through their new logic models. Last year's grant cycle had a new emphasis on evaluation and impact/outcomes measurement. Many of you have already responded to the GEC Impact Survey circulated through NAGE, which is an effort to collate some of our specific outcomes as a network. Individual GECs are advised to prepare their own "impact statements," showing not only numbers trained and areas served, but patient encounters, impact on the performance of trainees and those elderly they serve. This information will be critical when you meet with your legislators.

Our Strategy

We have a challenging year ahead of us. Now, more than ever, is the time for the leaders in geriatrics to unite and mobilize to seek restoration of funding for geriatrics in FY 2007, at the FY 2005 level of \$31.5 million. It is imperative that we have an organized strategy and that we speak with one voice. NAGE will be providing the network with a bullet point list of GEC outcomes, representing the latest figures approved by HRSA. We will also be circulating template letters through the GEC listserv (to Directors and Associate Directors) that you can customize for your individual GECs. Information will also be posted to the NAGE web site and can be downloaded.

Ed Olsen, NAGE President, has asked that I chair the Legislative Committee for NAGE. In that role, I will continue to provide guidance and updates to the network regarding our advocacy efforts. You will still receive the red-flagged priority mail items and Action Alerts! We have also put a new process in place. This year, we have actively engaged the NAGE Board directly in an "advocacy mentoring" role. Each Board member has been assigned several states and their respective GECs. They will serve as your contact person and provide additional guidance for NAGE advocacy efforts. GEC Directors

and Associate Directors can expect to hear from their assigned NAGE Board member regarding explicit instructions about contacting their legislators. This will also provide an effective means of sharing responsibility, developing all of us as advocates, and create a feedback loop.

Other things currently in the works include preparing testimony about the impact of elimination of funding for geriatrics, meeting with legislators, working with the Senate Special Committee of Aging to encourage a hearing on geriatric funding issues, and planning for a Hill Day. NAGE is also actively working with the American Geriatrics Society, HPNEC and other national organizations and groups to form an effective coalition to support reinstatement of funding for geriatrics and other Title VII programs. We are working with other organizations on a new approach to the reauthorization of Title VII that will be significantly different from what we now have and, hopefully, more able to address the concerns of Congress about our effectiveness. We will keep you posted on our progress.

The Plan – IMMEDIATE ACTION NEEDED!

As with any advocacy efforts, there is an **URGENCY** and timeliness to all of our activities. Our legislators will have to submit all appropriations requests by March 16th. That means that we **MUST** contact our legislators by no later than March 10th to ask for their support in reinstating funding for geriatrics at \$31.5 million (the FY 2005 funding level). **Things ALL GECs need to do NOW** include:

- Contact your Representatives and Senators and ask them to restore funding for geriatrics at \$31.5 million
- Focus efforts on conservative Republicans, who will be trying to hold the line on discretionary spending
- Prepare your GEC statement about the impact of cuts to geriatrics education and training on the health professions and the elderly they serve
- Call ALL your legislators and encourage them to sign on to the DeGette-Norwood letter in support of Title VII health professions funding (letter will be circulated through the GEC listserv)
- Work with you local media outlets to get press coverage

Many of your institutions have lobbyists who are working on this issue. A request will be coming through the listserv asking for information about how your university has prioritized geriatrics and the level of advocacy efforts in place. In order to optimize our approach and have a unified and powerful strategy, we will be asking for a contact person, so that we can follow up through NAGE, if appropriate.

There is no doubt we have an uphill battle. However, this is an election year. The confusion caused by Medicare Part D has caused the senior voting bloc to voice their complaints about the prescription drug benefit. In addition, the omission of funding for geriatrics education and training, despite its inclusion in two of the top ten recommendations emanating from the 2005 White House Conference on Aging, has added fuel to the fire. There is pressure on legislators to do something. Let us act now and put the pressure on! Thank you all!

NAGE Board Members	Mentoring Assignments
Michele Abraham	Delaware, Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Washington DC (6 states, 7 GECs)
Stacy Barnes	Wisconsin, Webpage coordinator for NAGE and NAGEC (all states, 1 GECs)
Ronni Chernoff	Arkansas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas (4 states, 6 GECs)
Sara Jane Gainor	Georgia, Puerto Rico, Virginia, West Virginia (4 states, 4 GECs)
Jenny Mendez	Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Rhode Island (4 states, 7 GECs)
Colleen Murphy-Southwick	Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, Washington (5 states, 6 GECs)
Elyse Perweiler	New Jersey, alerts to NAGE website and GEC network, Chair of Legislative Committee (1 state, 51 GECs)
Linda Redford	Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York (4 states, 6 GECs)

Patti Swager	Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Nebraska, Oklahoma (5 states, 5 GECs)
Nina Tumosa	Maine, Missouri, assist Elyse with alerts (2 states, 51 GECs)
Joan Wood	Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon (4 states, 6 GECs)

ALASKA GERIATRIC EDUCATION CENTER

Ann Jache, PhD

The Alaska Geriatric Education Center will conduct its fourth annual Summer Institute in Gerontology. The institute begins April, 2006 with sessions on geriatrics at the *Full Lives Conference* in Anchorage, *Healthy Paths to Successful Aging* in Fairbanks, and *Embracing and Supporting our Elders in Bristol Bay* in Dillingham.

“Promoting Best Practices in Elder Health and Long-Term Supports”, June 8th through 10th, is a statewide education, training and networking opportunity providing continuing education for medical and social service professionals, direct care providers, and administrators of programs providing long-term supports to persons with disabilities of all ages, as well as those who provide services which promote the health and well being of aging persons. It is a highlight of the 2006 Summer Institute in Gerontology. This year, special attention will be paid to what is unique and what is shared by those providing and those experiencing long-term supports across the life cycle. The conference will feature demonstrations of successful programs and recent research about Alaska Native and American Indian Elders. “Promoting Best Practices in Elder Health and Long-Term Supports” is a product of a 21 year relationship with Northwest Geriatric Education Center of the University of Washington and a developing relationship with the Stanford and Montana GECs. Sessions developed in collaboration with Melen McBride of the Stanford GEC and Colleen-Murphy Southwick of the Montana GEC and Rosellen Rosich of the Alaska GEC will feature content on interdisciplinary ethnogeriatric teamwork. A call for papers and information about registration is posted on the alaskagec.org website.

For more information, please contact Ann Jache, PhD, (907) 786-1955, jache@uaa.alaska.edu.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA GERIATRIC EDUCATION CENTER

Joan B. Wood, PhD, Director

Training of Trainers Program: Caring for Cognitively Impaired Elders

The Northern California GEC, in collaboration with consortium partner, Monterey Bay Geriatric Resource Center, completed a 40-hour Training of Trainers program on September 15-16 and 30, October 7 and November 4. The program titled, "Caring for Cognitively Impaired Elders: Assessing and Managing Behavioral Issues in Acute Care Settings," was designed for physicians, nurses, social workers, and other health professionals in acute care who have responsibilities for educating or training others in staff development. In addition to learning best-practice techniques in caring for cognitively impaired elders in acute settings, each participant developed a teaching plan focused on intervening appropriately in problem situations at their respective facility. Sixteen health care professionals from hospitals and health care facilities in around the Monterey Bay area participated in the program. For more information, please contact Joan B. Wood, PhD, Director, (415) 514-0720, joan.wood@ucsf.edu.

THE SOUTH, WEST, AND PANHANDLE CONSORTIUM GERIATRIC EDUCATION CENTER

The South, West, and Panhandle Consortium Geriatric Education Center will hold its first ever Medico ~ Legal Issues in Aging Conference, on Friday, March 10th, 2006 in San Antonio, Texas. This primary goal of this educational program is to increase the knowledge and expertise of today's and tomorrow's health care and legal professionals in the critical medico-legal and ethical issues surrounding care of the elderly population. Objectives include but are not limited to the following: discuss the protocol for obtaining informed consent for a patients who is incompetent; critique the clinically validated tools with assess mental capacity in the elderly; and recognize physical and emotional abuse as well as financial exploitation of the elderly, and state the steps necessary to report the abuse/exploitation. More information on this conference and other can be

find on our website at <http://www.sagrecc.org/STGEC/Default.htm>. Or please call 210-567-7410 and speak to Mary Ann Mitchell.

The South, West, and Panhandle Consortium Geriatric Education Center in collaboration with The Baylor College of Medicine will present a 3-Day workshop entitled, “Medical Management of Elder Abuse: A Practical Approach “. The workshop is designed to stimulate participants to increase their examination and interviewing skills; learn more about elder abuse, begin networking with others who have an interest in elder abuse, and to be able to apply the “interdisciplinary” approach in their work.

The intent is to build significant skill in applying an interdisciplinary approach to elder mistreatment by having professionals from medicine, nursing, social work and Adult Protective Services “experience” one another’s approach to the issue. On Day 1 classroom lecture, case studies and power point presentations will be the primary modes of information delivery. On Day 2, the participants will “work” through the interdisciplinary experience with experts in the field and “actor” patients. On Day 3, the participants will accompany APS caseworkers and supervisors on a ride-along to view first-hand how referral and investigation occur and to witness the difficulties of elder abuse investigation. A debriefing and discussion by the group about the experience will complete the day’s activity.

A self-study workbook will be sent to each participant before the workshop. The workbook is designed using the outlines from the elder abuse curriculum, and will contain questions to test fact, and cases to stimulate critical thinking. The participants will bring the workbooks to the workshop with them. More information on this conference and other can be find on our website at <http://www.sagrecc.org/STGEC/Default.htm>. Or please call 210-567-7410 and speak to Mary Ann Mitchell.

2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
March 8 th , 2006	Challenges in the Assessment & Management of Pain in the Minority Elderly Population	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, New York	Diane Rehse (585) 760-6377
March 9 th , 2006	Biotechnology and Human Enhancement	Virginia Commonwealth University Student Commons Richmond, VA	
March 10 th , 2006	Medico: Legal Issues in Aging Conference	San Antonio, TX	Mary Ann Mitchell (210) 567-7410 http://www.sagrecc.org/STGEC/Default.htm
March 15 th , 2006	Perioperative Medical Management of Frailty Fractures	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, New York	Diane Rehse (585) 760-6377
March 16 th -19 th , 2006	2006 Joint Conference of the National Council on the Aging and the American Society on Aging	San Francisco, CA	(415) 974-9600 fax: (415) 974-0300 jc06@asaging.org www.agingconference.org
March 21 st , 2006	Best Practice in LTC	Gurwin Jewish Geriatric Center	LIGEC (631) 444-8279 liger@stonybrook.edu
March 22 nd , 2006	Direct-to-Consumer Advertising and Prescription Drugs & the Effects on Patient-Physician Communication & Quality of Care	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, New York	Diane Rehse (585) 760-6377
March 23 rd , 2006	Connecting the Dots between Spirituality and Resident Care: Finding Meaning and Purpose in Long-Term Care	Our Lady of Hope Health Center	Keith Nesbitt (804) 360-1960 x47
March 23 rd , April 20 th , 27 th , and May 11 th , 2006	Training of Trainers: Community-Based Care	Fresno, CA	Rachel Price (310) 312-0531 rprice@mednet.ucla.edu www.geronet.ucla.edu
March 24 th -25 th , 2006	Geriatric Medicine Leadership Training	Marina del Rey Marriott Hotel Marina del Rey, CA	Denise Gutierrez (310) 312-0531 dgutierrez@mednet.ucla.edu

March 24 th -26 th , 2006	17 th Annual Virginia Geriatrics Conference	Jefferson Hotel Richmond, VA	Saunya Fisher (804) 675-5000 x3942 saunya.fisher@med.va.gov
March 29 th , 2006	Determinants for Hospitalization of Nursing Home Residents	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, New York	Diane Rehse (585) 760-6377
April 5 th , 2006	Ethnogeriatrics	Stony Brook University Health Sciences Center	LIGEC (631) 444-8279 ligec@stonybrook.edu
April 5 th , 2006	Suicide in Older Adults	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, New York	Diane Rehse (585) 760-6377
April 5 th , 2006	Pain Management: Chronic Illness, End-of-Life and Diverse Populations	Sierra Health Services Chairman's Auditorium Las Vegas, NV	Pam Allsop, Nevada GEC (702) 671-2381
April 5 th , 2006	Pain Management at the End of Life: Bridging the Gap between Knowledge and Practice	Teleconference To find a site near you: (800) 854-3402 or http://66.132.137.69/teleconference/findasite.asp	Kristen Baker telecon@hospicefoundation.org http://66.132.137.69/teleconference/#times
April 5 th -8 th , 2006	Natural Bridges: Preparing for an Aging South	Radisson Plaza Lexington, KY	Lora Gage (239) 541-2011 lgage4sgs@aol.com
April 6 th -7 th , 2006	Death and Dying	Union Theological Seminary and Presbyterian School of Christian Education Richmond, VA	Brian Cassel (804) 628-1926 www.vcu.edu/faithscienceforum/index.html
April 7 th , 2006	2006 Rush Elder Rights Forum: Financial Abuse and Exploitation in the Elderly	Rush University Medical Center Chicago, Illinois	Amy Eisenstein (312) 942-8155 amy_r_eisenstein@rush.edu
April 7 th , 2006	CCGG Annual Meeting: Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges	The Sainte Claire Hotel San Jose, CA	Brian Manning (310) 312-0531 bmanning@mednet.ucla.edu
April 7 th , 2006	Conservations at the Crossroads: Geriatrics and Palliative Care	Micah Center at High Point Church Madison, WI	Craig Robida (608) 263-4982 robida@uwccc.wisc.edu
April 12 th , 2006	Mental Aerobics Beyond Crossword Puzzles	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, New York	Diane Rehse (585) 760-6377
April 19 th , 2006	Healthy Paths to Successful Aging	Fairbanks Memorial Hospital Fairbanks, AK	Denise Daniello (907) 456-1380 fnldl1@uaf.edu
April 19 th , 2006	Geriatric Primary Care	Long Island State Veterans Home	LIGEC (631) 444-8279 ligec@stonybrook.edu
April 19 th , 2006	Physician Health: Routine Maintenance & Occupational Hazards	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, New York	Diane Rehse (585) 760-6377
April 20 th -21 st , 2006	Full Lives Conference: Toolkit for Tomorrow	Anchorage, AK	Kathy Fitzgerald (800) 243-2199 anklf@uaa.alaska.edu

April 20 th -22 nd , 2006	Providers' Certificate of Specialization in Aging Mini Conference	University Inn Reno, NV	Linda Wiley (702) 671-2381 lwiley@med.unr.edu
April 26 th , 2006	Update on Innovations in Stroke Rehab	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, New York	Diane Rehse (585) 760-6377
April 26-27 th , May 9 th and 23 rd , and June 6 th , 2006	Leadership Management: Integrating a Mental Health Program into On Lok's PACE Program	On Lok Senior Health Services San Francisco, CA	Matthew Case matthew.case@ucsf.edu
April 27 th -29 th , 2006	California Association of Long-Term Care Medicine (CALTCM) Annual Meeting	Sheraton Anaheim Hotel Anaheim, CA	Brian Manning (310) 312-0531 bmanning@mednet.ucla.edu
April 28 th -29 th , 2006	Epidemiology of Alzheimer's Disease	The Westin Horton Plaza San Diego, CA	(858) 534-3940 ocme@ucsd.edu

Wisconsin Geriatric Education
Center
Marquette University
P.O. Box 1881
Milwaukee, WI 53201-1881