

GEC PIPELINE



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Joan Weiss, PhD, RN, CRNP; Chief, Allied, Geriatrics, and Rural Health Branch HRSA/BHPr/DSCPH
Greetings from the Bureau of Health Professions!

The Bureau of Health Professions is planning a GEC project director's meeting from March 11-13, 2002 in Baltimore, Maryland. Please save the date. Happy Holidays to you and your family.

Kathleen Bond, BHPr

"BHPr Day" was well attended at the GSA meeting in Chicago despite being held in the midst of the GSA program. Thanks to everyone who participated.

The day began with consultations between representatives of "old" and "new" GECs. All participants reported that the time was helpful and well spent. The rest of the morning was devoted to a presentation by Jim Nohelty of the BHPr Office of Planning and Program Development about BHPr's new electronic reporting requirements. In addition to the presentation, Jim joined into general discussion and answered particular grantee's questions. By now, each grantee should have received a letter introducing the reporting system and providing passwords. Please contact our office if you have not received a letter.

During the afternoon, Joe Assouline of the Iowa GEC reported on distance learning activities; Gwen Yeo of the Stanford GEC made the formal announcement of the availability of the ethnic specific modules designed to compliment the ethnogeriatric core curriculum (available at: www.stanford.edu/group/ethnoger/index.html); and Julia Rose of the Western Reserve GEC reported on the data collection instrument designed to be used by all GECs at each educational offering. The hard work that these initiatives required is much appreciated.

NAGEC

The National Association of Geriatric Education Centers (NAGEC) held its meeting following the HRSA/BHPr Meeting on Saturday, November 17th, 2001, during the Gerontological Society of America Annual Meeting in Chicago. NAGEC's President, Andrea Sherman (Consortium of New York GEC's), welcomed all attendees and began the meeting with a minute of silence for the victims of the September 11, 2001 attack. Immediately following, NAGEC's Treasurer, Stacy Barnes (Wisconsin GEC), gave a brief financial report for the organization, noting that the organization's account balance is currently \$ 24,500.00. Unlike last year, only a handful of GECs have outstanding balances; namely, South Florida, Northwest, Washington DC, and Long Island. Andrea Sherman reported that two Council member positions are currently open for re-election and several changes are proposed to the organization's by-laws; both of which require a vote from the membership. Michelle Saunders (SWAP-C GEC), Chair of the By-Laws Committee, disseminated one ballot to each GEC, briefly reviewed the proposed by-laws changes and answered questions from the membership at large. While the votes were being tabulated, Ellen Flaherty, PhD from the Geriatric Interdisciplinary Team Training Program disseminated "GITT Kits" to each GEC. She explained that the GITT Kit provides a step-by-step approach to interdisciplinary education, focusing on lessons learned from the eight project site geriatric team experts. Following her presentation, John Hennon (GEC of Pennsylvania) and Joe Assouline (Iowa GEC), summarized the activities of the Distance Learning Task Force, noting that an in-depth presentation and discussion were held earlier in the day during the HRSA Meeting. A draft of the summary report from the network's August meeting in Washington DC is currently undergoing review and is anticipated to be disseminated to all GECs in late December. Michelle Saunders returned with the voting results, stating that the changes in the by-laws were passed, but there was a tie between two of the nominated individuals. Each GEC recast their ballots and ultimately Patti Swager (Nevada GEC) and Elyse Perweiler (New Jersey GEC) were elected to the NAGEC Council. The meeting lasted approximately an hour-and-a-half. On March 11-13th HRSA will hold a GEC meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. There will also be a NAGEC meeting at ASA in April 2002.

Andrea Sherman, PhD, President NAGEC

The NAGEC Council wishes to thank Melen McBride, PhD, RN from the Stanford GEC for her leadership on the NAGEC Council. Melen was instrumental in the development of both the Ethnogeriatrics and Distance Learning Initiatives. We thank her for all of her efforts and hope that she continues her leadership among the GECs. Thanks also to Juan Rosado Matos, MD from the Puerto Rico GEC who will also be leaving the council.

MIAMI AREA GEC

Drace Langford, Associate Director

Call for GEC Resources

The Miami Area Geriatric Education Center (MAGEC) is working with the Florida legislated Teaching Nursing Home to design a curriculum for nurses (first project is for LPN's) and medical students to work with nursing home patients with dementia. In order to not totally "reinvent the wheel", we would like to survey the GEC network to see what is already available - from articles, literature, CD's, Videos, etc. We are working in a short time frame, and would appreciate knowing what you have available. Please E-mail or fax any information to Drace Langford, Associate Director of MAGEC at: Langford@miami.edu <mailto:Langford@miami.edu> or MAGEC fax 305.243.1279.

VIRGINIA GEC

Marcia Tetterton, MS & Angela G. Rothrock, MS

Quality Improvement Partnerships: Development of Online Training Modules Based on a Statewide Pressure Ulcer Videoconference

Expenditures on the treatment of pressure ulcers in nursing facilities have been estimated to exceed \$2.5 billion nationally and represent one of the most frequently cited deficient areas of care in Virginia's nursing facilities. The need for an on-line interactive training program was a natural outgrowth of a well-formed quality improvement effort to deliver top quality and easily accessible training. The experience of the Virginia Geriatric Education Center became an invaluable resource in a partnership, which included academics, physicians, nursing facility administrators, nurses, and physical therapist. The content for the training program was based on the interdisciplinary pressure ulcer prevention and treatment protocol guidelines and materials developed by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research in 1990. Initial training was delivered to 521 long-term caregivers via a statewide videoconference in May 2000. The training materials utilized for the video-conferencing were then modified for use as an independent study online training module.

The development of computer based training hinges on the communication between all parties involved in the development process. It is critical that the conceptual details of the end product be developed prior to initiating the technical development process as even minor modifications may call for major reprogramming resulting in a higher cost and delays. The development of online training is a time consuming process, which must be met within a realistic time frame that addresses the potential for technical glitches. The ability to offer online training has few bounds as the technology improves, but it is however, important to consider the potential limitations of the end user. Particular care was taken to develop a training program that was easy to comprehend and did not require a high degree of computer skill or resources. Interactive components were also added to the training in an attempt to stimulate curiosity and enhance the learning experience.

Videotapes of the original videoconference are available for \$25 each. The computer based training on the Prevention and Treatment of Pressure Ulcers should be available at the first of the year. For more information, contact: Angela G. Rothrock, MS, Virginia Geriatric Education Center, (804) 828-9060. Email: rothrag@aol.com.

MINNESOTA AREA GEC

Anne Kane, Program Director

Peopling Long-Term Care: A Free Report

The University of Minnesota's Center on Aging has issued a report on the workforce shortage in long-term care. The report, *Peopling Long-Term Care: Assuring an Adequate Long-Term Care Workforce for Minnesota*, examines the shortage of nurses and aides in the state and recommends a broad range of strategies to assure an adequate supply of these critical workers and to reduce their turnover. The report is the product of a 28-member interdisciplinary faculty workgroup convened at the University of Minnesota under the auspices of the Minnesota Chair in Long-Term Care and Aging and the Center on Aging and chaired by Robert L. Kane, MD. The report emphasizes that assuring adequate staffing across long-term care settings in Minnesota will require a sustained, multi-dimensional effort that includes both short-term actions to alleviate the immediate crisis and long-term strategies that address its roots. Increased compensation by itself is necessary but not enough; the work itself must be redesigned to give participants a sense of self-worth and accomplishment. Training programs should recognize skills and experience. Innovative approaches to recruit students for even temporary work as nursing aids will provide both staff coverage and exposure to long-term care. Better supervision and more creative management is needed to create a work environment that will attract and sustain the new work force. Cultural awareness and sensitivity is needed both to help the new Americans who comprise a growing proportion of the LTC workforce to adapt to American culture and to help employers respect their traditions as well.

The faculty workgroup has chosen Chronic Care as the topic for the 2001-2 academic year and has already met twice to identify areas for further research and analysis. Topics will include prevention and health promotion, cultural and social factors that affect the incidence and course of chronic illness, management across the continuum of care, and public policy.

For further information or a complete copy of the Peopling Report please visit our website:
<http://www1.umn.edu/coa>.

Where Have All the Articles Gone?

It is clear from the lack of article submissions this month that people are uncertain about what to submit in light of the new emphasis for PIPELINE. In short, your articles should focus on information that would directly benefit other GECs around the country. For example, articles could focus on any one of the following topics...

- ◆ Newly produced educational products that other GECs could purchase or order
- ◆ On-line offerings that other GECs could link to
- ◆ New or improved program methodology that other GECs could replicate
- ◆ Newly identified revenue sources that other GECs could tap into
- ◆ Improved methods of collecting participant data that other GECs could replicate
- ◆ Improved methods of reaching difficult to serve populations that other GECs could replicate
- ◆ New collaborations in need of GECs partners
- ◆ Successful methods of managing GEC consortiums or collaborations
- ◆ Meeting announcements involving all or several GECs (BHP, NAGEC, Task Forces)
- ◆ Etc, etc.

Avoid articles that simply expand upon upcoming events (e.g. date, time, place, speakers); however, those items are still welcome in the calendar section of the PIPELINE. The simple test you can use with any article is to ask yourself, "If I were another GEC, would this information be of any use to me?" Thank you for your cooperation. Keep those articles and calendar events coming!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
December 6 th , 2001	Improving Clinician-Patient Communication to Enhance Diabetic Outcomes	Hilton City Center Milwaukee, WI	Joseph Blustein 800-362-2320 x8226
December 7 th , 2001	Holistic Aging- Art, Music, and Speech Therapy	Nazareth College Arts Center 4245 East Avenue Rochester, NY	Nazareth College 716-389-2525
December 12 th , 2001	Care of the Elderly in Advanced Economies	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Anne E. Francione 716-760-6375
December 12 th , 2001	Interdisciplinary Teamwork & Quality of Life Improvement	Isabella Nursing Home New York, NY	Anna Peters 212-998-5618
December 19 th , 2001	Technology in Aging	Monroe Community Hospital Rochester, NY	Anne E. Francione 716-760-6375
January 30 th , 2002	Spearheading Nursing Practice for older Adults	New York University	Anna Peters 212-998-5618
January 30, 31 & February 1, 2002	Social Work & Nursing Home Administrators Education Module	Barry University Campus Miami, FL	MAGEC 305-243-6270 www.miami.edu/magec
February 20-22, 2002	Medical Care in the Home: State of the Art National Education Conference	Ft. Lauderdale Marina Marriott Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316	MAGEC 305-243-6270 www.miami.edu/magec
February 22 nd , 2002	“Transcultural Aging”	Nazareth College Arts Center 4245 East Avenue Rochester, NY	Nazareth College 716-389-2525