

## CALIFORNIA GERIATRIC EDUCATION CENTER

*Rachel Price, Program Representative, California Geriatric Education Center*

### **CGEC Key Stakeholders Leadership Conference Identifies Essential Education and Training Content for the Mental Health Services Act and Older Californians**

In November 2004, California voters approved Proposition 63 on a measure that substantially changed statewide mental health program funding. The resulting law, Mental Health Service Act (MHSA), gives the State authority to collect a 1% surcharge on the portion of each taxpayer's taxable income above \$1 million, which goes into a new Mental Health Services Fund. The program specifically provides \$324 million for mental health workforce education and training through 2007-2008.

While Proposition 63 includes specific funding for education, training and older adult *services*, it did not specify the content of *education and training* that should be provided with these funds. As such, in order to identify specific training initiatives for adoption statewide the California Geriatric Education Center (CGEC) hosted a Leadership Academy for key stakeholders in June 2005. The meeting brought together over eighty academic leaders, government representatives, and community health care providers to brainstorm and establish a consensus on issues of workforce preparedness to better inform the Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission established by Proposition 63. Further data on health and mental health care in the elderly and the need to produce a prepared workforce is alarmingly clear.

As the Department of Mental Health develops its statewide five-year plan to implement the MHSA the stakeholders endorsed the following recommendations:

1. **The needs of older adults must be adequately and appropriately addressed in the MHSA planning process.** Programming must address shortages across all disciplines and promote education of the health-professions, students and caregivers who in turn help older people to navigate the complex health systems to get the resources and care they need
2. **Training and curriculum development projects include the priority content areas of:**
  - a) **Basic knowledge**
  - b) **Diagnosis**
  - c) **Treatment**
3. **Utilize existing care models** to educate primary care and other healthcare providers to increase coordination and integration of mental health and primary care (e.g. the IMPACT model)
4. **Experienced service and education partners are used**, such as the California Geriatric Education Center, which has provided training to over 24,000 faculty and health professionals since 1987

Meeting attendees further consented that any subsequent initiatives should not only focus on older adults and their informal caregivers, but also faculty and students at all levels of higher education (community college, public and private colleges and universities), in addition to in-service training programs for current care providers while incorporating an emphasis on minority representation to reflect the culturally diverse population. In short, to ensure the success of the MHSA, a prepared workforce with appropriate discipline-specific, aging and mental health knowledge and skills must be included in education and training recommendations to deliver a comprehensive mental health care policy.

A full report is available at: [http://www.geronet.ucla.edu/centers/cgec/CGEC\\_Position\\_Statement\\_Prop\\_63.2.pdf](http://www.geronet.ucla.edu/centers/cgec/CGEC_Position_Statement_Prop_63.2.pdf).

## NATIONAL GEC'S

*J James Cotter, Virginia GEC*

### **The National Geriatric Education Centers Videoconference Collaborative**

Fourteen GECs and the Department of Veterans Affairs Employee Education System (VA/EES) have joined together to create The National GEC Videoconference Collaborative.

This is a new initiative that broadens the initial collaborative that has existed for the past five years among four GECs (Virginia, Pennsylvania, Mountain State and Western Reserve) and the VA/ EES. The original partnership of these four GECs and the VA/EES has allowed successful design, production and dissemination of three national videoconferences in the areas of Parkinson's Disease, Palliative Care, and Substance Abuse. These programs were broadcast to health care professionals at numerous sites across the country and met with great success. An overwhelming majority of the participants of the Parkinson's videoconference found the programs to be worthwhile (98%) and would recommend them to other health care professionals (97%). Follow-up results from the End-of-Life videoconference evaluation indicated that the content had been translated into clinical practice with an impact beyond the short term.

The partnership also offers large economic advantages. Members are able to present the materials to their target audiences at a cost significantly smaller than what they would pay if attempting to create a similar program outside of the partnership. A new audience for GEC programming – the health professionals associated with the network of VA Health Centers (about 4,000 VHA employees)—is reached, and, in FY 2005, hospitals and other facilities associated with the U.S. Department of Defense and Centers for Disease Control joined this partnership. Cooperation between the groups also allows use of resources (production crew and broadcast technologies) and materials (video library of previous VA/EES educational programs) that would otherwise be cost-prohibitive or impossible to obtain.

The fourteen GECs that will be partnering in this collaborative are: University of Alabama at Birmingham GEC; Iowa GEC; Ohio Valley Appalachia Regional GEC; Harvard Partners GEC/New England GRECC; Montana GEC; Consortium of New York GECs; Western Reserve GEC; Oklahoma GEC; GEC of Michigan; GEC of Pennsylvania; South, West, and Panhandle Consortium of GECs of Texas; Meharry Consortium GEC; Virginia GEC; Washington DC Area GEC Consortium; and Mountain State GEC.

The topic of the first videoconference will be "The Elderly Driver". Currently, a planning committee representing the fourteen GECs and the VA/EES plus leaders in the area of the elderly driver is identifying appropriate expert speakers for the videoconference. We expect it will be broadcast in June. Videotapes and CD-ROMs of the videoconference will be available for translation into other distance learning products such as online modules.

Administrative leadership for this initiative will be provided by the Virginia GEC. Program evaluation will be handled under the leadership of the Western Reserve GEC. The VA/EES will coordinate production and satellite uplink activities with input from the planning committee. Each GEC will contribute funding or in-kind services. Stay tuned for details on the upcoming videoconference.

## STANFORD GERIATRIC EDUCATION CENTER

*Melen R. McBride, PhD, RN Stanford GEC*

### **One-Day Program on Geriatric Emergency Preparedness**

At the March 2006 Joint Conference of the American Society on Aging (ASA) and the National Council on Aging (NCOA) in Anaheim CA, a Special Program on "Enhancing the Safety and Well-Being of Older Adults through Age-Specific Emergency Preparedness Programs" was presented. The day-long symposium consisted of three symposia/workshops. The program was a collaboration between the ASA Network on Multi-Cultural Aging (NOMA), ASA Mental Health and Aging (MHAN), and six HRSA funded Geriatric Education Centers (GECs) who are core members of the Bioterrorism and Emergency Preparedness in Aging (BTEPA) Task Force of the National Association of Geriatric Education Centers (NAGEC). The BTEPA/HRSA funded GECs include Consortium of New York GECs at New York University; Gateway GEC for Missouri and Illinois at Saint Louis University; Ohio Valley Appalachian Region GEC at University of Kentucky; Stanford GEC at Stanford University; Texas Consortium of GECs at Huffington Center, Baylor College of Medicine; and Western Reserve GEC at Case Western Reserve University. The program was attended by about 120 participants.

The first session focused on policies, programs, and trends on emergency preparedness at the regional, state, national, and international levels. The panel discussed programs and resources, various public health threats, and their impact on an aging population. Partnerships between Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Center for Disease Control (CDC), Area Health Education Centers (AHECs), and Geriatric Education Centers emphasized the need for multidisciplinary

training of professionals to respond effectively to different types of emergencies. Authorities in Canada have taken the lead to energize other countries on the unique issues for geriatric emergency preparedness.

Presenters for the second session discussed creative strategies to train health care and social service professionals and community-based service providers to increase awareness of preparedness for older adults at pre-event, event, and post-event recovery. The aftermath of hurricane Katrina brought to light the realization that much more education is needed in regards to overall preparedness systems and specifically, geriatric preparedness. The challenges of post-event trauma and recovery was described through the field experiences of social work students who provided services to an African American community after hurricane Floyd of 2004 hit North Carolina. Hands-on service activities used as “teachable moments” consisted of mental health support for the community agency staff and the older clients. Student acquired a profound appreciation for the complexity of the recovery process by survivors of a natural disaster. An interdisciplinary web-based curriculum (<http://darla.neucom.edu/ElderPrepare>) model with 4 modules included consideration of the civil rights and civil liberties of older adults in a community emergency. Participants learned about decision making in an emergency through tabletop exercises for an emergency situation in a long term care facility which provided a range of learning opportunities.

The third session emphasized mental health for older adults in public health emergencies from pre-disaster readiness to post-disaster resolution, particularly post 9/11 geriatric mental health. Discussions included application of adult learning theory in teaching strategies; availability of a database on geriatric resources (<http://www.rgs.uky.edu/aging/btepa/index.html>); culturally appropriate urban and rural services for the vulnerable and/or the cultural and language challenged ethnic elders; and ethnic-specific issues for sensory impaired minority elder with diabetes. The session ended with an experiential healing ritual designed to promote the healing and recovery process and to enhance an older adult’s quality of life, especially during the resolution phase of a catastrophic experience.

The program presenters include **John Blossom, MD**, Association of Health Education Centers (AHEC) and California Public Education Network (Cal-PEN), University of California San Francisco-Fresno; **Florence Gray Soltys, MSW, ACSW, CCSW**, Schools of Social Work and Medicine, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC; Arleen Johnson OVARGEC; **Melen McBride, Ph.D., R.N.**, Stanford GEC; **Nora O’Brian, M.A.**, The Brookdale Foundation, NY; **Robert Roush, Ed.D., M.P.H.**, Texas Consortium GECs, University of Texas; **Yoko Sakuma Crume, PhD, MSW, LCSW**, North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services, Raleigh, NC; **Nina Tumosa, PhD**, Gateway GEC, ; and **Joan Wood, PhD** Northern California GEC, University of California San Francisco.

Contributors to the sessions include **Judy Howe, PhD**, New York Consortium GEC, New York University, **Barbara Palmisano, PhD**, Western Reserve GEC, Case Western Reserve University, **Elyse Perweiller**, New Jersey GEC, **Andrea Sherman**, New York Consortium GEC, New York University, **Joan Weiss, PhD, RN**, HRSA, Bureau of Health Professions, **Lynn Wegman, MPA**, HRSA, Division of State, Community, and Public Health.

## 2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>	<i>LOCATION</i>	<i>CONTACT</i>
May 2006	Seminar for St. Thomas Hospital	Nashville, TN, Tennessee State University, West End Methodist Church, Catholic Charities Villa Maria Home	<a href="http://www.MCGEC.com">www.MCGEC.com</a>
May 1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2006	2006 National Oral Health Conference	Peabody Little Rock Hotel Little Rock, AR	<a href="http://www.aaphd.org">www.aaphd.org</a>
May 3 <sup>rd</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2006	American Geriatrics Society 2006 Annual Scientific Meeting	The Hyatt Regency Hotel Chicago, Illinois	<a href="http://www.americangeriatrics.org">www.americangeriatrics.org</a> (301) 694-5243
May 15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2006	Issues in Aging	Management Education Center Troy, MI	<a href="http://www.iog.wayne.edu">www.iog.wayne.edu</a>
May 15 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> , 2006	Embracing and Supporting Our Elders in Bristol Bay	Dillingham, AK	Denise Daniello (907) 456-1380 <a href="mailto:fnldl1@uaf.edu">fnldl1@uaf.edu</a>
May 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> , 2006	Pulama I Ke Ola Healthcare Conference: Pono-Harmony in Health	Hilo, Hawaii	Dr. Cecilia Mukai <a href="mailto:cmukai@hawaii.edu">cmukai@hawaii.edu</a> <a href="http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu/depts/nursing">www.uhh.hawaii.edu/depts/nursing</a>
May 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2006	Ethnicity & Dementia: Outreach & Assessment	Andrus Auditorium University of Southern California	Denise Gutierrez (310) 312-0531 <a href="mailto:dgutierrez@mednet.ucla.edu">dgutierrez@mednet.ucla.edu</a>

June 2006	Medical GRN Certificate Three Fridays Program	Skyline Medical Center York, VA Hospital and Sumner Regional Hospital	<a href="http://www.MCGEC.com">www.MCGEC.com</a>
June 5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> , 2006	28 <sup>th</sup> Summer Institute on Aging Preparing for the Aging Boom: Impact and Action	Radisson Hotel at Waterfront Place Morgantown, WV	(304) 293-3501 ext. 3109 <a href="http://www.wvsioa.org">www.wvsioa.org</a>
June 8 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> , 2006	Promoting Best Practices in Elder Health and Long-Term Supports	BP Energy Center Anchorage, AK	Ann Jache Ph.D. (907) 786-1955 <a href="mailto:jache@uaa.alaska.edu">jache@uaa.alaska.edu</a>
June 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> , 2006	23 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Summer Series on Aging	Radisson Plaza Hotel Lexington, KY	(859) 257-8301 <a href="http://www.research.uky.edu/aging/summerseries">www.research.uky.edu/aging/ summerseries</a>
June 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2006	17 <sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Institute: Diverse Populations & Care Issues	Oregon Health & Science University Portland, OR	Pat Ebert <a href="mailto:ebertp@ohsu.edu">ebertp@ohsu.edu</a> <a href="http://www.ohsu.edu/ogec">www.ohsu.edu/ogec</a>
June 15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2006	17 <sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Series on Aging: Mental Health Issues	Oregon Health & Science University Portland, OR	Pat Ebert <a href="mailto:ebertp@ohsu.edu">ebertp@ohsu.edu</a> <a href="http://www.ohsu.edu/ogec">www.ohsu.edu/ogec</a>
June 21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2006	17 <sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Geriatric Institute Cognitive Issues in the Elderly: Aiming for Quality of Life	Oklahoma	Linda Womack (405) 271-8199 <a href="mailto:Linda-womack@ouhsc.edu">Linda-womack@ouhsc.edu</a>
June 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2006	Centenarian Study	TBA	LIGEC (631) 444-8279 <a href="mailto:ligece@stonybrook.edu">ligece@stonybrook.edu</a>
September 12, 2006	CGEC Statewide Advisory Meeting	Marina del Rey Marriott Hotel Marina del Rey, CA	Rachel Price (310) 312-0531 <a href="mailto:rprice@mednet.ucla.edu">rprice@mednet.ucla.edu</a>
September 13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> , 2006	23 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Intensive Course in Geriatric Medicine/Geriatric Pharmacy and Board Review	Marina del Rey Marriott Hotel Marina del Rey, CA	Janet L. Adriano (310) 312-0531 <a href="mailto:jadriano@mednet.ucla.edu">jadriano@mednet.ucla.edu</a>
September 15 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> , 2006	Care of the Elderly	Sitka, AK	Jill Hanson (907) 747-7733 <a href="mailto:jill.hanson@uas.alaska.edu">jill.hanson@uas.alaska.edu</a>
November 6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> , 2006	Reflecting on 100 Years of Alzheimer's: The Global Impact on Quality of Lives	Crowne Plaza Cleveland City Centre	(216) 368-4945 <a href="mailto:IAConference@case.edu">IAConference@case.edu</a> <a href="http://fpb.case.edu/CFA/announce.shtm">fpb.case.edu/CFA/announce.shtm</a>
November 16 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> , 2006	The Gerontological Society of America's 59 <sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting	Adam's Mark Hotel Dallas, TX	<a href="http://www.agingconference.com">www.agingconference.com</a>