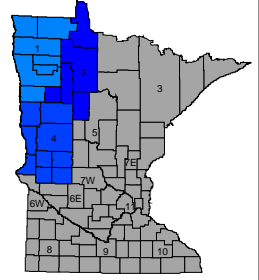




Land of the Dancing Sky
Area Agency on Aging
Senior News



Volume 13, Issue 1 --- March, 2007

Additions and New Staff!



Karin, Chris and big brother Tyler welcomed Sarah to their family on January 5, 2007. Karin will be returning to work at the Fergus Falls office in early March.

Congratulations!

Carol Bye joined the Warren office as Senior LinkAge Line Specialist on January 16, 2007. She and her husband Rick live in Warren and have two sons, Todd (23) and Brian (18).

Welcome Carol!



Region One Office
115 South Main, Suite 1
Warren, MN 56762
(218) 745-6733

Region 2 Office
PO Box 301
Park Rapids, MN 56470
(800) 333-2433

West Central Office
PO Box 726
Fergus Falls, MN 56537
(218) 739-4617

Medicare Savings Programs for Qualified Beneficiaries

If you are on Medicare, there are programs available to help you pay part of your medical expenses. Depending on your income and the value of things you own, you will not have to pay some or all of your out-of-pocket expenses for hospital, physician and other services covered by Medicare. You could save hundreds if not thousands of dollars each year.

These programs are called Medicare Savings Programs.

The Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program (QMB) helps pay:

- Medicare Part A Deductible, \$992 per benefit period.
- Medicare Part B Deductible, \$131 per year.
- Monthly Medicare Part B Premium, \$93.50 put back in your Social Security check.

The Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary Program (SLMB) helps pay:

- Monthly Medicare Part B Premium, \$93.50 put back in your Social Security check.

The Qualified Individual Program (QI-1) helps pay:

- Monthly Medicare Part B Premium, \$93.50 put back in your Social Security check.

To qualify for one of these programs, you must meet the following requirements:

- You must be entitled to Medicare Hospital Insurance (Part A).
- Your financial resources, or the things you own are below \$10,000 for an individual and \$18,000 for a couple. Financial resources are things like cash, savings, and non-homestead property. Some things like the home you live in, one automobile, burial plots, home furnishings, personal jewelry, and some life insurance, usually do not count as resources.

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Medicare Savings Programs for Qualified Beneficiaries continued...

Your income must fall below the following guidelines for the QMB and SLMB programs:

- Family size of 1 – Gross monthly income of \$980 or less.
- Family size of 2 – Gross monthly income of \$1,320 or less.

Your income must fall below the following guidelines for the QI-1 program:

- Family size of 1 – Gross monthly income of \$1,103 or less.
- Family size of 2 – Gross monthly income of \$1,486 or less.

Income includes, but is not limited to, Social Security benefits, pensions and wages. Interest payment and dividends can also count as income.

For more information or to apply, contact the Senior LinkAge Line™ at 1-800-333-2433.

Seniors -- Are You Interested in Learning Some Basics About Computers?



Come Surf The Web With Us! Call the Senior LinkAge Line™ 1-800-333-2433 to find out more about a class near you or to help get a class organized in your area.

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month!



VOLUNTEERS
MAKE
A
DIFFERENCE!

Many thanks to all of our volunteers
for all of the work
you do!

Looking for a rewarding opportunity to help someone? Become a SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program) Volunteer and make a difference in someone's life. Contact the Area Agency on Aging for more information.

Faith Community Data Inclusion Project Underway



A process for including faith community information in MinnesotaHelp.Info is under way. A simple web site, called “Provider Portal EZ”, has been created to help faith communities include their data in MinnesotaHelp.Info.

Governor Pawlenty’s Special Advisor on Faith and Community Initiatives, Lee Buckley, is working with MBA staff to include information about social services provided by faith communities in the MinnesotaHelp.Info resource database. Ms. Buckley provided staff with a listing of about 4,500 faith communities across the state.

Faith communities were mailed a packet with instructions for accessing the site with a Provider ID and password. Volunteers from the Area Agency on Aging have been making calls to the faith communities to offer assistance in accessing the site and helping include the information.

If you did not receive a packet and would like to access the site, please call the Senior LinkAge Line™ at 1-800-333-2433 and we can provide your faith community their ID and Password to either add your information or remove it from the system if you do not wish to be included.



Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging 2007 Projects

Region 1/2 Area Counties

Kittson County Sr. Transportation	Medical Transportation	\$ 4,000
Roseau County Sr. Medical Travel	Medical Transportation	\$ 8,000
NWSTS Chore Program	Chore Services	\$ 14,000
Roseau County STS Program	Chore Services	\$ 5,000
Tri-County Comm. Corrections STS	Chore Services	\$ 13,500
Valley Housekeeping	Housekeeping Services	\$ 28,000
Lakewood Health Center	Home Health Aide Services	\$ 5,000
Red Lake Comprehensive Health	Housekeeping Services	\$ 5,800
Community Resources Connections, Inc.	Information & Asst.	\$ 27,800
Clearwater Co. Social Services	Senior Transportation	\$ 4,000
Bi-CAP Community Council	Home Repair/Modification	\$ 9,250
LSS Sr. Nutrition	Congregate/HDM	Fed \$433,699
		State \$107,597

Region 4 Area Counties

Wilkin County PHN	Information & Assistance	\$ 13,750
Stevens Co. Human Services	Information & Assistance	\$ 11,500
Grant County Social Services	Information & Assistance	\$ 12,500
Traverse County Social Services	Information & Assistance	\$ 12,750
Emmanuel Community	Information & Assistance	\$ 24,750
Lakes & Prairies Comm Action Partnership	Information & Asst.	\$ 30,000
Otter Tail County PHN	Information & Assistance	\$ 30,500
Pope County PHN	Information & Assistance	\$ 14,950
Douglas County Sr. Citizen Program	Information & Assistance	\$ 30,000
Otter Tail County Human Services	Transportation	\$ 17,000
West Central MN CAC	Home Repair/Modification	\$ 19,000
Alzheimer's Association	Care Consultations	\$ 15,700
Nutrition Services, Inc.	Congregate/HDM	Fed \$ 527,425
		State \$ 132,917
Central MN Elder Network	Caregiver Support/Respite	\$ 8,000

2007 Projects Continued...

All 21 Counties

Legal Services of NW Minnesota	Legal Assistance/Education	\$72,500
Lutheran Social Services	Caregiver Respite/Support	\$232,371
Lake Region Healthcare	Medication Management	\$10,723



**Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging
NW Regional Development Commission
115 South Main, Suite 1
Warren, MN 56762**



Pre-Sort Standard

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PAID**

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Warren, MN 56762

Is Your Address and Name correct on the mailing label?

**If not please notify the Area Agency on Aging so your
name and address can be updated!**

Thanks!