

CSUS Gerontology Program

Fall 2008 ~~ Community Service Learning Project Presentations

El Dorado Hall 1039 ~~ December 12, 2008

8:00

Introductions

8:05

In-Home Safety for Vulnerable Populations: A Handout for Recipients and Providers of In-Home Supportive Services, Placer County

Jen Silmaro

Agency: In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), Placer County

Supervisor: Cate Lynds

In-Home Supportive Services of Placer County has an ongoing objective to provide outstanding service to both recipients and their providers. This agency's goal of care is to "provide older and disabled adults and children with domestic and personal care services which allow them the ability to live in their own homes safely and with dignity". To facilitate this goal, IHSS desired the development of an in-home safety handout that would encompass both up-to-date home safety resources and contact information for local Placer County agencies. This handout will be given to IHSS recipients or providers at the time of annual home visits or during agency provider orientations and will assist in closing the gap in communication between the client and the IHSS agency by promoting a few of the key community resources that are available, but might not be widely known, for use by both the recipients and their providers.

8:35

Key Informant Interview: Data Collection for A4aa Resource Guide

Venaina Seeto

Agency: Area 4 Agency on Aging

Supervisor: Will Tift

The goal of the project was to gather information from key informants by way of an interview, using a prepared set of questions, and eventually using this information together with outcomes from the senior surveys and town hall meetings, to form the foundation for setting priorities for the funding of services and resources for seniors during the next 4 years, 2009-2012. One of the methods for information gathering used by the A4AA was 'Key Informant' interviews. Part of this process was to identify stakeholders in the community who were considered 'experts' in the area of aging mainly through their years of professional experiences and also community leaders who may not have the 'professional' experience but because of their position in the community are able to be good advocate for the elderly. A questionnaire containing eight questions (some with many parts) was used. Volunteers from CSUS Gerontology Program helped with the interviews following a brief induction. All of the interviews were tape recorded with the interviewee's agreement and all the interviews were conducted over the phone. Irrespective of the agencies that they represented, data showed clear relationships to earlier studies. Transportation, medical services, high cost of medical care, and access to services were identified as the most significant problems. According to the responses, the 'experts' seemed to be well informed about issues affecting seniors. The fact that transportation has continued to be the top priority for the elderly is a well known among at least 60% of those interviews. Healthcare cost and services was also ranked among the top 3 priorities for seniors even though this was ranked 4 & 5 in the 2004 Needs assessment report. In general, it seemed that the 'experts' are very aware of diversity issues now and in the future and the needs and challenges of retiring boomers.

9:05

Veterans Benefit Seminar

Sandra Howery

Agency: Hart Senior Center

Supervisor: Linda Hoschler

So many military Veterans do not know what benefits are owed to them after serving our country in one of the branches of the United States military. In order to get this information out to the clients from the Ethel Hart Senior Center a veteran's benefit seminar was planned. The student got interested in this subject after her own dad who is 78 years old just recently started receiving disability benefits for being injured in action during the Korean War. He should have started receiving these benefits right after being discharged from the Army but because he didn't know these benefits were available to him he just recently started receiving disability payments. The purpose of this project was to inform military Veterans, spouses of Veteran's and widow and widowers of what benefits are owed to them and to provide resources for them so they will know who to contact about receiving benefits it also allowed these individuals to ask questions directly to the representative speaking at the seminar in person. A Veteran Benefit Resource Book will be left at the front desk at the Ethel Hard Senior Center for current clients and future clients to have access to so they can find out who to contact if they have questions about their military benefits. The Ethel Hart Senior center receive a lot of calls asking about information on many subjects that the center may not offer but with this resource book they can at least help them find out who to contact if they have questions about Veteran's benefits. The research information for the seminar and the resource book was found from research on the internet and several phone calls to several agency's in the Sacramento who offer Veteran's services. The resource book will list phone numbers and addresses of local, state and federal Veteran agencies.

9:35

Break

9:45

Public Policy Presentation: Legislation to Law

Nancy Murrish

Agency: CSUS Gerontology Programs

Supervisor: Cheryl Osborne EdD

This project will benefit students of California State University Sacramento (CSUS) by enhancing student's understanding of the affect public policy has on their careers and current education. Faculty, as beneficiary, will have the developed material continually available for classroom use. A class presentation using the computer program PowerPoint was developed for use within the Gerontology Program at CSUS. The content of the class entitled: Public Policy Presentation: Legislation to Law, describes the legal procedures used in the creation of law and the role of advocacy in the process. The content of the presentation was a culmination of; a review of existing research literature referencing the need for policy discussion within the study of gerontology, public policy changes that are directly related to events affecting seniors, and research of the codified procedures for creating legislation. Moreover, the validity of Power Point presentations as an effective instructional tool was studied. Support for research was achieved through personal interviews with experts in the fields of legislation, advocacy, and education. Post presentation assessment of Gerontology students demonstrated increased knowledge of the procedures used in developing new law.

10:15

Electronics 101: Bridging the Gap Between Generations

Irma Jara

Agency: Woodland Senior Center

Supervisor: Maria Luchessi and Susannah Reinhart

The Woodland Senior Center's mission is to promote the physical, emotional, social and economic well being of older adults and to promote their participation in all aspects of community life. The center strives to be the recognized focal point within the City of Woodland for access to programs that encourage healthy aging and provide basic social services and socialization activities. Historically, the extended family helped maintain and support its members, families lived closer, and senior adults were an important part of the family. Changes in society and the family have greatly influenced intergenerational relationships. Over the course of the last century, America has become highly segregated by age, and family functions have been assumed by a range of age-specific institutions. As a result, there are few genuine opportunities for interaction among the generations and the old do not have relationships with the young, and the young do not understand their elders or the aging process. The myths and stereotypes that result from separating the generations, in combination with shrinking resources, fosters tension between the generations. These trends suggest a need for increased communication and interaction across generations. The goal of this project is for both older adults and younger adults and children to learn and interact with each other, utilizing today's available technologies giving way to an intergenerational program in the senior center. As individuals learn more about each other, stereotypes and barriers to interaction disappear, resulting in improved relations between the generations. Furthermore, the use of technologies will serve as a learning tool for both generations in an effort to collaborate successfully. Great success is anticipated through this class, so that it may be used as a model to continue offering it in the years to come.

10:45

Art Trek: Painting & Drawing Program @ River's Edge

Kim Edens

Agency: The Chateau at River's Edge

Supervisor: Kim Adams

The Chateau at River's Edge main objective is to support independence and encourage socialization for all of its residents. The Chateau offers a comprehensive program of educational, health promoting and recreational activities. The Art Trek painting program at Chateau at River's Edge encourages experimentation and self-discovery and socialization in a supportive environment that nourishes the intuitive power of self-expression. Art Trek is a watercolor painting and drawing class using many different mediums which is ideal for artists and non-artists alike, all levels of skill are welcome and encouraged to "give it a try"! An array of painting and drawing methods will build self-confidence and maximize the spontaneity inherent in all forms of watercolor painting and sketching.

Congratulations !!!!!