



COUNCIL on AGING

YOUR SOURCE AND VOICE ON SENIOR ISSUES

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The mission of Council on Aging is to transform Charlotte-Mecklenburg into a *senior-friendly** community through education and advocacy.

CURRENT EMERGING ISSUE STATUS REPORT

DATE: April 2009

IDENTIFIED ISSUE: **Aging & Disabilities** – *Serving Mecklenburg County*

The Emerging Issues / Status of Seniors Initiative Committee (a Council on Aging Education/Advocacy initiative), through partnerships with Centralina Area Agency on Aging, Disability Rights & Resources and Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services and Just 1 Call, is currently working with agencies in Charlotte-Mecklenburg that provide services and support to older adults and people with disabilities. The collaborative effort is working to establish a multi-functional system that will serve as a “focal point” for aging and disability resources and will provide information and services to consumers through a streamlined, seamless, uniform, “no wrong door” portal. This system, **Community Resource Connection (CRC)** – nationally known as Aging & Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) – will ultimately provide strategic planning, information and assistance, care/case management, education and communication, and advocacy on issues affecting older adults and people with disabilities in Mecklenburg County.

Mecklenburg County’s CRC will be referred to as:

Aging & Disabilities CRC
Serving Mecklenburg County

CURRENT SITUATION:

- Mecklenburg County has a broad continuum of services and agencies supporting the aging and disabled populations; however delivery of these services is often fragmented, rather than through a connected and coordinated system.
- Just 1 Call serves as the comprehensive Information and Referral system for all Mecklenburg agencies and consumers; however an expansion of the system is needed to better represent all agencies/organizations in Charlotte-Mecklenburg that provide services and resources to aging and disabled adults.
- Some agencies in Mecklenburg County currently provide screening and resource assistance to consumers at risk for institutional long-term support services, but

these activities lack uniform coordination among agencies. As a result, consumers are not always adequately informed as to other options that might be available to them other than standard long-term care placement.

- Many consumers, especially persons with disabilities, currently do not receive services because agencies are not completely physically or technologically accessible.
- According to the [2005 Status of Seniors Initiative Report](#), fragmentation of services is always one of the issues mentioned in surveys and discussion about the needs of older adults and their problems with services.
- According to the same report, during the May 18, 2005 Pre-White House Conference on Aging, the need for a “no-wrong door, one-stop shop” for Mecklenburg came up in every focus group.

COUNCIL ON AGING EDUCATION/ADVOCACY EFFORTS:

- The Emerging Issues / Status of Seniors Initiative Committee (a Council on Aging Education/Advocacy initiative), [Centralina Area Agency on Aging](#), [Disability Rights & Resources](#), [Mecklenburg County DSS](#) and [Just 1 Call](#), along with 32 other agencies in Mecklenburg County representing older adults and people with disabilities, have met since January 2008 to strategically plan for a **Community Resource Connection**.
- The collaborative met to complete the North Carolina Aging & Disability Resource Connections – Community Readiness Tool to assess Mecklenburg County’s preparedness for the implementation of a Community Resource Connection (nationally known as Aging & Disability Resource Connection) in the community.
- The collaborative has recently been awarded grant through North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, [Office for Long-Term Services and Supports](#), for funding to implement the **Community Resource Connection** in Mecklenburg County.
 - Grant award period: October 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011
- Letters of Support were submitted by 21 local and statewide agencies in support of the **Community Resource Connection** (*originally named the Southern Piedmont Aging & Disability Resource Connection for grant writing purposes. Please note that the title of the initiative has since changed*).
- The [Emerging Issues / Status of Seniors Initiative Committee](#) (a Council on Aging Education/Advocacy initiative) meets the fourth Wednesday of every month. The committee, along with participating collaborating agencies, and is continuing work to make the **Community Resource Connection** a reality.

RESOURCES/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- North Carolina Aging & Disability Resource Connections [Community Readiness Assessment Tool](#).
- Community Resource Connection [Letters of Support](#).
- Centralina Area Agency on Aging [ADRC PowerPoint](#) presentation.
- Visit the [Just 1 Call](#) website.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Attend **Council on Aging's Annual Conference 2009** for more information on this new initiative on **Wednesday, May 13, 2009 from 8:00am – 4:00pm at Covenant Presbyterian Church** (1000 E. Morehead Street, Charlotte, NC 28204). **Annual Conference 2009 introducing...Aging & Disabilities CRC – Serving Mecklenburg County**. For more details, click [here](#).
- Help Council on Aging raise awareness about the Community Resource Connection initiative in Charlotte-Mecklenburg by having a program presented to your organization, business or club through the Council on Aging [Speaker's Bureau](#).
- [Donate](#) today to help ensure a *senior-friendly* tomorrow.

**A senior-friendly community allows aging adults to maintain independence, dignity and quality of life.*