



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: 06/20/2008

IDENTIFIED ISSUE: SOUTHERN PIEDMONT AGING & DISABILITY RESOURCE CONNECTION

The Emerging Issues / Status of Seniors Initiative Committee (a Council on Aging Education/Advocacy initiative), through partnerships with Centralina Area Agency on Aging and Disability Rights & Resources, 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, **Southern Piedmont Aging & Disability Resource Connection (SPADRC)**, 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.

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](#) and [Disability Rights & Resources](#), along with 32 other agencies in Mecklenburg County representing older adults and people with disabilities, have met since January 2008 to strategically plan for **Southern Piedmont Aging & Disability 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 an Aging & Disability Resource Connection in the community.
- The collaborative has recently completed and submitted a grant application through North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, [Office for Long-Term Services and Supports](#), for funding to implement the **Southern Piedmont Aging & Disability Resource Connection** in Mecklenburg County.
 - Grant application deadline: June 9, 2008
 - Grant award notification: July 31, 2008
 - 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 **Southern Piedmont Aging & Disability Resource Connection**.
- 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, with or without a grant, will continue work to make the **Southern Piedmont Aging & Disability Resource Connection** a reality by attending all training offered by the state starting in August.

RESOURCES/ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Help Council on Aging raise awareness about the need for an Aging & Disability Resource Connection 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.