

November 13, 2008

Dear Area Agencies,

The Detroit Area Agency on Aging (DAAA) recently obtained a grant to help develop an effective delivery system for the aging of the baby boomer generation. DAAA has entered into a contract with our firm, Urban Consulting Group, to assist them with this goal.

DAAA has asked us to reach out other urban area agencies to see how encounter similar challenges.

1. Are you experiencing challenges with the nursing home system in their urban environment, including safety issues, failing physical plants and closures?
2. Are you experiencing a different in quality of care in the urban nursing homes, versus the suburban nursing homes?
3. Are there higher levels of citations in urban nursing facilities then in suburban or rural facilities?
4. Is there an issue regarding access to care and information barriers regarding care for the seniors in urban environments?
5. Are the nursing facilities in the urban areas primarily Medicaid facilities, or do they also have a healthy mix of Medicare, long term care insurance and private pay clients?
6. Have you conducted any studies on the client mix urban nursing homes? If so, do those facilities have a mix that includes elderly, HIV/Aids, mentally ill, developmentally disabled, etc?
7. Are your active programs to assist seniors in selecting options for home based long term care services?
8. Have any studies been conducted to identify legislative or regulatory barriers to improving the physical plant of nursing facilities, training of direct care workers and expansion of service offerings?
9. Are there challenges for these urban facilities in meeting the 85% occupancy rule for Medicaid eligibility?

If you could please answer the proceeding questions and return them to me by **Monday, November 17, 2008 by 8 am.** My contact information is the following:

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Thank you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.