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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Detroit Area Agency on Aging joined by State Senator Samuel “Buzz” Thomas form Detroit Long Term Care System Change Task Force *Nursing Care Facility Summit for nursing home owners on September 29*

DETROIT—After commissioning a survey of long-term care facilities in Detroit that identified disparities among nursing home sites, the Detroit Area Agency on Aging recently created a task force to engage stakeholders in system change. “The Status of Detroit Nursing Homes: Moving Toward Enhancing the Quality of Care” study by Plante & Moran analyzes the care needs of the elderly in the City of Detroit bringing attention to the lack of services to meet those needs.

The Detroit Long-Term Care System Change Task Force is co-chaired by Michigan State Senator Samuel “Buzz” Thomas, State Representative George Cushingberry, Jr. and Paul Bridgewater, President & CEO, Detroit Area Agency on Aging. The Task Force will hold a **Nursing Care Facility Summit for nursing facility owners and administrators on Monday, September 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, 2701 Chicago Blvd. in Detroit in the seminary’s Bishop Gallagher Room.**

The summit will give nursing facility owners and administrators an opportunity to hear results of the recent analyses of nursing facilities in the metro Detroit area, and to engage in discussions about successes, concerns and challenges.

“We welcome input from all of the local nursing facility owners, administrators, and staff. Their insight and perspectives are obviously critical to any long-term care system change policy recommendations and strategies for the Detroit area being developed by the Detroit Long-Term Care System Change Task Force. We also look forward to engaging researchers, the hospital community, advocacy groups, citizens and other stakeholders. We are at a crossroads in the struggle to meet the challenge of providing quality long-term care to an ever-growing population of seniors. Whether they are aging at home or in an institutional setting, everyone deserves to age with dignity and to make their own choices about the quality of care they receive. Those of us in the aging network have to work together to make that happen,” said Paul Bridgewater.

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Long-Term Care Initiatives Forum for nursing home owners on September 29 press release, page 2
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The nine subcommittees of the Task Force have enlisted professionals and consumers who are committed to quality care in all long-term care settings, from adult foster care and assisted living to nursing facilities and adult home help.

Research and recommendations will focus on increasing access to more affordable options, streamlining management processes, expanding consumer services, and identifying innovative alternatives and solutions to some of the most critical concerns in the long-term care arena.

Over a year-long period, the Task Force will develop policy recommendations that support system change during a two-phase process. Phase I recommendations will be presented to Detroit legislators to support the development of changes in legislation, regulations and administrative roles by February 2009 in order to impact the legislative budgetary process. Phase II recommendations will focus on program development that can support reform efforts in the long-term care system. A final report will be prepared by September 30, 2009 with research findings and the recommendation.

For further information, please call the Detroit Area Agency on Aging at (313) 446-4444, ext. 5803.

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