



**Contact:**

Adrienne Warren, (313) 446-4444, ext. 5260 or  
(313) 614-3288 cell

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, October 9, 2008**

**New Detroit Long Term Care System Change Task Force organizes  
Community Stakeholders to develop policy reform recommendations**  
*Hundreds to attend Ad Hoc meeting on October 13 with Co-chairs of Subcommittees*

DETROIT—The newly created Detroit Long Term Care System Change Task Force, co-chaired by Michigan State Senator Samuel “Buzz” Thomas, State Representative George Cushingberry, Jr. and Paul Bridgewater, President & CEO, Detroit Area Agency on Aging, will convene the nine subcommittee co-chairs with hundreds of stakeholders to start development of policy reform recommendations that support system change.

The Ad Hoc group meeting of the Detroit Long Term Care System Change Task Force will be held at the Detroit Area Agency on Aging offices at 1333 Brewery Park Blvd, 1<sup>st</sup> floor annex on Monday, October 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

*“Realizing that millions of Baby Boomers are rapidly approaching retirement age, the Detroit Area Agency on Aging (DAAA) has had the foresight to focus on this vital issue and is helping to advocate and educate our community,”* says Senate Democratic Floor Leader Buzz Thomas, Detroit (D-Detroit). *“To be sure, DAAA continues to be on the forefront when it comes to creating winning strategies to promote long term care solutions for its constituents. I am honored to participate on the Long Term Care Task Force,”* Senator Thomas adds.

Enlisted for the Task Force are community stakeholders, professionals and consumers committed to quality care in all long-term care settings who have a vested interest in the assured delivery of high quality long term care services. Those planning to attend are Area Agency on Aging representatives, local legislators, members of community-based organizations, professional and nonprofessional caregivers, retirees and representatives from service providers, skilled nursing care facilities, senior and disability advocacy groups, financial institutions, labor unions and the academic community.

-continued-

Task Force committees consist of a Leadership/Steering Committee, a News Media/Advocacy Group and a State Advisory Group. The nine subcommittees are Access, Business and Economic Development, Legislation & Regulations, Nursing Home Management, Long-Term Care Stakeholder Engagement, Pre-Paid Health Care Plan, Independent Living Services, Training and Quality.

*“With this meeting we are starting the Detroit Long Term Care System Change Task Force’s work on the development and implementation of policy recommendations that support long term care system changes. These recommendations will help older persons, adults with disabilities and family caregivers to age in place with dignity and respect. Our legislative co-chairs Senator Buzz Thomas and State Representative George Cushingberry, Jr. will help us to deliver the recommendations from the Task Force in an effort to improve the quality of the long-term care for an ever-growing population of seniors,”* said Paul Bridgewater.

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.

-end-

