

Medicine Chest

Summer/Fall Newsletter 2021

Education - Prevention - Access

11.41 - 15.92% 15.94 - 16.62% 16.70 - 16.62% 16.70 - 16.62% 17.51 - 18.70% 18.96 - 21.28%

US Census Bureau, 2019

Percent of Persons 65 or Older by NC County

Statewide Survey

Assessment of Services Like Ours Across the Tarheel State

We are often asked "Do other communities have a Senior PharmAssist?" The literal answer is "no," however, it is ... complicated.

This past year, we had the good fortune of working with a gifted UNC School of Public Health graduate student, Vanna Labi, and the leadership from several state agencies (the NC DHHS Division of Aging and Adult Services as well as the Office of Rural Health) to assess the availability of **comparable programs elsewhere** in North Carolina.

We surveyed similar agencies primarily about their efforts to provide **our four primary services**: medication therapy management, help paying for medications, Medicare counseling, and tailored community referrals.

Inside the Medicine Chest

Master Aging Plan Progress

Learn about our involvement with Durham's Master Aging Plan and the formation of Aging Well Durham – page 2

Welcome

Meet new Board members and new Medicare Counseling volunteers – page 3

Honor Roll

Join us in thanking our many generous donors – pages 4-7

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Statewide Survey

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We had 376 responses from across the State (representing all but one County). Our results were nuanced; some communities provide some of these services in similar ways but not exactly.

For example, some communities have "free pharmacies" that can help individuals with sample medications or provide no or low-cost medications. Alternatively, Senior PharmAssist provides a prescription card that can be used at any pharmacy to lower co-payments for the medications we cover (medicines that we consider safe, effective, and cost-effective for older adults - Medicare drug plans pay first). And while most communities in NC have a SHIIP office (Seniors Health Insurance Information Program) to review Medicare options, they rarely engage pharmacists in medication monitoring and other costsaving "tips of the trade."

We are considering what next steps might be for the communities that want to improve or integrate their services and how Senior PharmAssist might help, while ensuring that our own program remains strong. To support this, over the last six months an Outreach Task Force began implementing several activities specifically aimed at introducing Senior PharmAssist's services to more Durham residents 60 and older who struggle financially. We do not like hearing that we are the "best kept secret" – we invite you to help us spread the word.



Introducing Aging Well Durham

In 2009, many stakeholders – including Senior PharmAssist – gathered to create the **Master Aging Plan** (MAP) in Durham since we are expecting significant growth in the number of older adults in the Bull City. Development of the Durham MAP was led by Durham's Partnership for Seniors (DPfS), a long-standing coalition of service providers and community volunteers focused on improving the lives of older adults in Durham. The final MAP included a comprehensive list of 33 goals across nine domains with specific strategies to meet these goals.

The planned implementation date for Durham's MAP coincided with the start of the COVID-19 pandemic so there was a delay. Meanwhile, many of the stakeholders who participated in the MAP design process came together to form Durham's Partnership for Seniors and More (DPfS+) to design and implement a COVID-19 response to support aging adults.

Now, these two coalitions – DPfS and DPfS + have combined forces to create a new nonprofit organization called **Aging Well Durham**. Aging Well Durham will build a collaborative infrastructure to implement the current Master Aging Plan. In addition, this new agency's mission will extend beyond this time-bound effort to ensure that we think about "aging in all policies." Aging Well Durham will help our community collectively build on our strengths, find investments from new partners, and fill in gaps to ensure that equity remains a driving force for aging Durham residents. Our hope is that both County and City leaders will continue to support this effort because *together* we can make even more great things happen!

To review the Master Aging plan, see a link on the homepage of our website, www.seniorpharmassist.org

Our Medicare Counseling Grows

Senior PharmAssist is the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program Coordinating site for Durham County.

Please join us in welcoming six new FY22 Medicare counseling volunteers:

Jay Barbaccia, Erin Huffstetler, Anna Hung, Michelle Kim, Henry Luftman, and Martha (Mackie) Spruill!



FY21 SHIIP Volunteers

Peter Adland Shelley Beason Bill Boyarsky BJ Boyarsky Collette Driscoll Jim Drennan Lorna Doucette Amy Guising Bruce Hays Roslyn Muse Tim Sanford Yolanda Williams

Welcoming New Board Members

Michael Honeycutt currently works in the City of Durham Parks & Recreation Department with the Mature Adult program. Prior to that he worked with the Advocacy & Resource Center in Plattsburgh, NY. An active member of First Presbyterian Church, he is a strong believer in the power and wisdom of older adults in our community.

Jeff Potter worked at Duke University for 40 years from 1979 to 2019, first as an attorney in the Office of General Counsel and, for the majority of the time, as Director of Real Estate Administration. Outside of Duke, he has served on the boards of the Durham YMCA and Durham Habitat for Humanity, and he founded and ran for 12 years the Durham Girls Soccer League. In retirement, he and his wife volunteer at a local food bank.

Sherry Spruill is a clinical social worker with over 30 years of experience in the healthcare industry including work at Duke University, Moses Cone Hospital, and The Ohio State University Hospitals. She has professional experience as a case manager and employee assistance counselor and has worked both in medical and mental health settings. She is passionate about quality and patient safety.

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We want to thank Lynn Spragens, John Stelling, and Kay Wellemeyer for six amazing years of service on our Board. They truly offered invaluable services – strategic planning, financial oversight, and fundraising prowess collectively and respectively. The good news is that all are continuing on in non-Board capacities! We also thank Jeanne Hecht for serving three years on the Board and for her many contributions.

Senior PharmAssist Staff

Brittany Crump, MPA Marilyn Disco, PharmD, BCGP Katrina Nesmith, MSW, MSHM Sheri Omozokpea, PharmD, BCGP Jane Tandler, MS Nathalie Tissaire Patricia Trull, MHS Gina Upchurch, RPh, MPH Jessica Visco, PharmD, BCGP Health Resources Coordinator Clinical Services Director Community Services Director Clinical Pharmacist Development & Communications Director Program Associate Operations Director Executive Director & Founder Clinical Pharmacist

Endless gratitude to all who contributed to our program between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021

Healthcare Catalysts (\$25,000+)

County Of Durham Duke University Health System The Forest at Duke Fox Family Foundation NC Office of Rural Health Community Health Grant, via DukeHealth Mr. Ken Otterbourg, in memory of Bob and Sue Otterbourg NC Pandemic Recovery Office, via NC

Association of Free & Charitable Clinics The Stewards Fund

Health Innovators (\$10,000 to \$24,999)

Anonymous (2) Barnes Family Foundation The Briar Foundation C.M. Herndon Foundation Carol Woods Retirement Community Fletcher Heart Fund Home Health Foundation of Chapel Hill Christopher and Simone Meyer Estate of Evelyn D. Schmidt, M.D. NC Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP)

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Duke Medical Residents Charity Auction

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Durham Merchants Association Charitable Foundation

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Dyana Morgan and John Shanley, via the Shanley Family Fund at Schwab Charitable The Mary Norris Preyer Fund

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Health Promoters (\$2,000 to \$4,999)

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Follow us on social media!





We are delighted to welcome **Michelle Kim**, who will be working with us for the next year as **Duke Chapel PathWays Fellow**! Michelle graduated from Duke University in 2021 with a bachelor's degree in Biology. She is eager to learn about the complexities of healthcare and social service access while getting to know older Durham residents this year.

Save the date!

Thursday, December 9th, 2021 5:30pm

Mark your calendars for a festive virtual fundraiser, with a silent auction, interactive games (with prizes!), and exciting updates about our work.

More information coming soon