

TCAD eLoop

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WEAAD is a Success

Speakers, games teach elders about financial exploitation

By Janet Lamb
Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability

A crowd of 100 enjoyed hotdogs and chips as they learned about financial exploitation and played fraud bingo at the Nashville observance of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day observance on June 15.

Channel 4 news co/anchor Jennifer Johnson hosted the event, held at the Patricia Hart Building of the FiftyForward Knowles Senior Center.

Keynote speaker, Mary Clement, Tennessee Consumer Affairs Director, told the crowd about different schemes telemarketers and unlicensed contractors use to steal money from Tennessee's seniors.

Metro police sergeant Suzanne Stephenson discussed crime prevention and safety tips, following a welcome by Metro Vice Mayor Diane Neighbors.

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continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 WEAAD is a Success
- 2 Staff Briefs
- 3 2009 Aging Legislative Roundup
- 4 WEAAD Pictures

Faces of our Elders



Verdie McCullough, shown here at age 14, was a champion speller, majorette, Junior Queen and was her school's delegate to the Nashville conference for New Homemaker of America program. She graduated from high school in 1951 and married Nathaniel "Tillie" McCullough in 1953. Tillie, a World War II veteran and grandson of a former slave, courted Verdie by riding a horse named Nell, to her home. They raised five daughters, who all graduated from college. She continues to enjoy working in her vegetable garden and volunteers at the Huntington Historical Museum.

Blue Shield, Kroger and the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability provided door prizes for the bingo games and drawings. The State Health Insurance Program (SHIP), Bradley Health Services, the American Diabetes Association, Metro Nashville Police Department provided items for goody bags for attendees.

Organizers for the Nashville event were Patsy Holt and Barbara Doak, of the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance, Metro Police Captain Rita Brockman-Baker, Mary Ann Petty, Victory over Crime Coordinator for FiftyForward, and Janet Lamb of Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability.

Lamb also served as WEAAD coordinator for statewide events, including observances in Memphis, Knoxville, Johnson City, Maryville, Morristown, Jefferson City, McMinnville, Selmer, Lewisburg, Ripley, Bristol, Kingsport, Kingston, Kodak and Madisonville.

For more information on WEAAD and Tennessee Vulnerable Adult Coalition, see www.tvaconline.org.



Tennessee Consumer Affairs Director Mary Clement explains different financial exploitation schemes con artists use to steal money from elders.

Staff Briefs

McCullough receives national certification

TCAD information and referral coordinator Laverdia McCullough received national certification as Information & Referral Specialist for Aging (CIRS-A) at the recent Reno, Nevada conference on Alliance of Information and Referral Assistance.

This certification is required for all information and referral specialists for ADRC. The certification enables the specialist to make the best referral in the least amount of time for the caller.

McCullough, who has been I&R coordinator for more than two years, also holds CIRS certification.

TN SHIP Coordinators meet in MD

TCAD TN SHIP Director Shannon Jones and sixteen State Health Insurance and Information Program (TN SHIP) coordinators attended the 15th annual national SHIP conference in Baltimore, MD held May 25-30.

Coordinators learned about the Medicare program and how to counsel Medicare beneficiaries regarding healthcare plans.

Additionally, TN SHIP received a two year grant award of \$719,751 Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers (MIPPA). The funds will be used to reach Medicare beneficiaries eligible for Medicare savings programs or the Low-Income Subsidy program with prescription drugs.

Hawkins-King revises policy

Valerie Hawkins-King, Statewide Nutrition Program Director, has been working with AAAD and Nutrition Service Provider staff members to update/revise the TCAD Policy & Procedure Manual chapter for the program.

The chapter will be ready for presentation to the Commission membership at its August 11, 2009 meeting.

2009 Aging Legislative Roundup

SB0009 Nurses, Nursing - As introduced, certifies medication technicians who can administer certain medications in nursing homes under the supervision of licensed nurses. - Amends TCA Title 63, Chapter 7, Part 1. Sponsored by Black Public Chapter 403

<http://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/106/Chapter/PC0403.pdf>

SB0277/HB0093 Hospitals and Health Care Facilities - As introduced, requires criminal background checks to be conducted for direct care employees "prior to employment" instead of "prior to employment or within seven days of employment". - Amends TCA Section 68-11-256. (S: Haynes; H Moore) Public Chapter 384

<http://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/106/Chapter/PC0384.pdf>

SB0774/HB1110 Calculation of out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs. Establishes a methodology and disclosure duties for health insurance entities and pharmacy benefits managers concerning calculation of out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs. (S: Overbey; H: Shepard) Public Chapter 355

<http://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/106/Chapter/PC0355.pdf>

SB1213/HB1106 Public Contracts - As introduced, requires the department of health to reimburse residential homes for the aged for each resident whose income does not exceed \$800 per month and whose income is limited to SSI benefits. - Amends TCA Title 12, Chapter 4, Part 3. (S: Black; H: J. DeBerry)

<http://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/106/Chapter/PC0251.pdf>

SB1214/HB1877 Qualifying for hospice care Clarifies that existing residents as well as new admissions qualify for hospice care in an assisted-care living facility. Clarifies that hospice services are pursuant to a patient care plan. (S: Black; H: Richardson)

<http://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/106/Chapter/PC0036.pdf>

SB1171/HB1410 Tennessee Department of Aging Act of 2009. Establishes department of aging to plan, develop and administer programs and services for disabled persons and older persons in this state, including all state activities related to the Older Americans Act. Transfers the duties of the commission on aging and disability to the department. Broadly captioned (13 pp.). (S: Finney L.; H: Ferguson) As amended for study committee.

<http://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/BillInfo/Default.aspx?BillNumber=SB1171>

HJR 0113 Caregiving and cognitive modules for the 2010 BRFS. Urges department of health to add caregiving and cognitive modules to the 2010 BRFS. (H: Armstrong)

<http://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/BillInfo/default.aspx?BillNumber=HJR0113>



TCAD Executive Director Mike Hann introduces keynote speaker, Tennessee Division of Consumer Affairs Director Mary Clement, at the Nashville observance of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, held June 15.

McCullough participates in disaster drill

Emergency services coordinator LaVerdia McCullough participated in a mock disaster drill center on a tornado hitting the Watts Bar nuclear plant.

McCullough contacted coordinators in Knoxville, Chattanooga and Johnson City to gather damage assessments, and fatalities. She also coordinated transportation assistance and food delivery for the disaster site.

"It was eye-opening," McCullough said. "I learned how to improve our program."

Hawkins-King attends nutrition conference

Nutrition Program Director Valerie Hawkins-King attended the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP) annual conference, in Atlanta, during the week of June 22.

The focus of this year's conference will be on promoting nutrition and healthy aging despite economic hard times, emergent trends and innovative ideas for resource development, developing organizational policies and procedures and advocacy.

McCullough conducts disaster preparedness workshop

Emergency services coordinator LaVerdia McCullough conducted disaster preparedness workshops for senior center directors at the AAAD in Jackson, TN and in Martin, TN.

McCullough assisted the directors in preparing their continuity of operations plan (COOP). She also demonstrated how to prepare a 72 hour preparedness kit in a five gallon bucket.

"You have food, water, heat source, entertainment, first aid and other needed resources in the bucket," she said. "Put a lid on the bucket and rotate the resources every six months."

Each attendee received an emergency preparedness folder, entitled "Are You Ready" that will prepare them for disaster ranging from household fires to terrorist attacks.

McCullough trained 75 persons in both workshops.



TCAD Waiver Administrator Phil Barnett cooks hotdogs for the crowd of 100 at the Nashville World Elder Abuse Awareness Day observance, held at the Patricia Hart Building of the Knowles FiftyForward Senior Center in Nashville.



Channel 4 Co/anchor and WEAAD host Jennifer Johnson, poses with Blue Cross Blue Shield representative Kimberly Watson, a WEAAD participant, and FiftyForward Victory over Crime coordinator Mary Ann Petty, at the Nashville observance of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15. Johnson, third from the left, called the fraud bingo game and awarded prizes donated by Blue Cross Blue Shield, Americhoice, Kroger and the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability.

