

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations



Department of Human Services Division of Elderly Affairs

RHODE ISLAND SENIOR BEAT

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DEA PUBLIC OUTREACH EFFORTS INCREASE AWARENESS OF COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

CRANSTON --- The Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Division of Elderly Affairs (DEA) publishes several guides and sponsors a cable public access television program to increase awareness of programs and services for senior and adults with disabilities to preserve maintain their independence. These public information programs are also designed to help caregivers and families select the most appropriate care options for seniors and adults with disabilities.

“The Pocket Manual-A Rhode Island Guide to Services for Senior and Adults with Disabilities,” is publishes annually by DEA and includes brief descriptions of support and community-based programs and support services, and contact information for the respective agencies. “The Pocket Manual” has been published by DEA for 36 years and this year’s edition is more than 100 pages. For a copy of the “Pocket Manual,” call DEA at 462-3000. The TTY number is 462-0740. The guide is also published on www.dea.ri.gov in a large print format and you can get a copy of the Spanish-language edition be calling the Diocese of Providence at 421-7833.

“The Rhode Island Guide to Medicare Supplement and Medicare Advantage Plans” provides an overall view of health insurance options that help pay for expenses that Medicare does not cover. The guide includes descriptions of Medicare, Medicaid, and other options available to pay for medical care. The publication also lists current rate information for Medicare health insurance plans available in Rhode Island, and information about prescription drug coverage.

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The “Medical Assistance and Nursing Home Care” guide is a summary of the state program that helps to pay for expenses in a long-term-care facility. The guide also includes a listing of the state’s nursing homes and assisted living facilities and also details information on how to research the quality ratings of long-term care facilities. The “Medical Assistance and Nursing Home Care” guide is updated annually by DEA.

You can obtain a copy of these publications by contacting DEA.

“Rhode Island Senior Beat” is a weekly newspaper column that focuses on topics and issues of interest to seniors and adults with disabilities, families, and caregivers. The column appears in several daily and weekly newspapers across the state and deals with subjects such as medical care, community-based long-term care services, transportation; help with medications, legal help, health insurance counseling, Medicare fraud, advocacy, and many other issues.

The “Senior Journal” cable television program is devoted to exploring the issues of growing older and the challenges faced by adults with disabilities in Rhode Island. The “Senior Journal” is produced by senior volunteers and adults with disabilities. Programs are sponsored by DEA with the support of Rhode Island PBS and Rhode Island Public, Education, and Government Access Television. The “Senior Journal” is broadcast on Sundays at 5:00 p.m., Mondays at 7:00 p.m., and Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. over statewide interconnect cable channel 13 and Verizon channel 32.

Since its initial broadcast in 1988, more than 600 “Senior Journal” programs have been aired over the statewide cable interconnect system. The “Senior Journal” volunteers have received several national and local broadcasting awards.

For more information about Senior Journal, or if you are interested in joining the Senior Journal volunteer crew, call 462-0509.

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The Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Division of Elderly Affairs (DEA) is responsible for the development and implementation of a comprehensive system of programs and services for Rhode Islanders ages 60 and older and for adults with disabilities. Questions or requests for additional information on the issues of growing older, or for issues concerning adults with disabilities in Rhode Island should be directed to: Larry Grimaldi, Rhode Island Senior Beat, Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Division of Elderly Affairs, 74 West Road, Cranston, RI 02920 or faxed to 462-0545. The e-mail address is lgrimaldi@dea.ri.gov.

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