In 1997, the two northern Michigan ombudsmen surveyed all nursing home administrators, from the 21 northern counties in lower Michigan, to ask them to participate in introducing culture change to the region’s nursing homes. With 75% of administrators responding, our first meeting found 6 people at the table and it was decided that our goal would be to sponsor a conference to promote the Eden Alternative™ and culture change education at monthly meetings. These meetings brought together a diverse group of people from nursing homes and agencies, in addition to ombudsman staff. The Best Practices of Northern Michigan partnered with the Bringing the Eden Alternative (BEAM) Task Force during its first year.

The first Best Practices conference, titled “Walk A Mile In Their Shoes” was held June 8 & 9, 1998, in Gaylord, with 500 attendees, and celebrated the important work of certified nursing assistants. In July, 1998, the Best Practices of Northern Michigan (PCNM) committee received the “Recognition in Excellence” award from Lynn Alexander, Director of Office of Services for the Aging and Chair of the BEAM Task Force during its first year.

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With the excitement generated from the first conference, nursing home staff and others were eager to have another conference the next year. Since that time, the BPNM has committed to supporting the nursing home culture change movement and to improving the quality of elders’ lives while residing in long term care settings.

In 2011, the BPNM will be presenting the 13th Annual Best Practices Conference and will continue to bring quality educational opportunities to the caregivers of elders in northern Michigan, with the purpose of motivating those working in long term care settings toward continuous quality improvement.

This year, the BPNM committee is pleased to welcome the Michigan Nurses Association as co-producers of our conference. This co-producing relationship will allow our conference to offer nursing contact hours.

MNA is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation.

**Conference Schedule**

8:30 AM Registration & Continental Breakfast
9:00 AM Conference Opens
9:15 AM Keynote Speaker, Mary Ellen Geist, Author, Measure of the Heart
10:30 AM Breakout Session #1
11:45 AM Lunch and Visit Vendors
12:45 PM Breakout Session #2
2:00 PM Breakout Session #3
3:15 PM Keynote Speaker & Concert, Robin Spielberg
4:15 PM Door Prizes and Closing Comments
Residents: The Heart of the Matter

Breakout Sessions

A. Shelly F. Weaverryck, Ph.D.  Dr. Weaverryck is widely published and has specialized in geriatric cognition and dementia since 1973. She serves as consultant to a variety of academic, long-term care, and mental health settings internationally, nationally, and locally in Michigan and NW Ohio. Dr. Weaverryck advises LTC administration and staff regarding cognitive impairment intervention and program planning. This breakout discusses Non Alzheimer's Dementia — What they are and Why it Matters.

B. Bradley Geller, Attorneys at Law. Brad attended Northwestern University and received his law degree from Northwestern University. He has served as counsel to Washtenaw County Probate Court and currently serves as Assistant State Long Term Care Ombudsman. This session deals with Planning for the Loss of Decision Making Ability Guardianships and Alternatives. Participants will learn about durable power of attorney (DPOA,) court appointed guardianships and conservatorships and the implications and dangers of these interventions.

C. Jan Doerr, MA, CTRS, ACC, ND. Jan received her BS & MA from CMU and a doctorate of naturopathy from Clayton College of Natural Health. Jan spent 10 years teaching at SSVS and CMU. She has been with St. Mary's of Michigan of Standish for 10 years. She resides in licensed long term care facilities by advocating for these residents guided by the residents wishes. Learn what your LTCO does when they enter your facility, their responsibilities and their authority to act. The LTCO Program strives to improve the quality of care and quality of life experienced by residents who reside in licensed long term care facilities by advocating for these residents guided by the residents wishes. Learn what your LTCO does when they enter your facility, their responsibilities and their authority to act.

D. Nancy Turner, Region 10 AAA Northwest Michigan and Sharon Greenhoe, Region 9 AAA Northeast Michigan. Long Term Care Ombudsman (LTCO) of the Michigan LTCO Program strives to improve the quality of care and quality of life experienced by residents who reside in licensed long term care facilities by advocating for these residents guided by the residents wishes. Learn what your LTCO does when they enter your facility, their responsibilities and their authority to act. The LTCO Program strives to improve the quality of care and quality of life experienced by residents who reside in licensed long term care facilities by advocating for these residents guided by the residents wishes. Learn what your LTCO does when they enter your facility, their responsibilities and their authority to act.

E. Celeste Goodman, MSW. Celeste has a MSW from Grand Valley State University. She has worked with the elderly and disabled population in a variety of settings including home, extended care, and assisted living and for the past eight years specializing in Hospice and end of life care. In this session, Dealing with Difficult Behaviors. Celeste will discuss behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia, triggers for behaviors, and treatment for behaviors.

F. Belinda Garvon, R.N. (Retired) Belinda worked as an RN for 40 years, retiring after 10 years in cardiac thoracic ICU. In the session, More to Parkinson's Disease (PD) Than Meets the Eye. Belinda will discuss the less recognized motor and non-motor symptoms outside of the 4 major symptoms of PD: tremor, rigidity, bradykinesia, and impaired balance. PD affects each person uniquely and Belinda will share her insight and experience after being diagnosed with PD.

G. Diane O'Connor, RN, BSN, CHPN. Diane is Program Coordinator with Alzheimer's Association serving NW Michigan coordinating support group activities and educational programming for professional caregivers and community members. Diane has worked in critical care, emergency room care, hospice nursing, and adjunct instructor at Alpena Community College. In May Diane will complete a Master's Degree in Nursing and Health Care Education. Understanding Alzheimer's Disease is the focus of this session.

H. Vickie Burlew, RN. Vickie is currently an instructor for MSU's Nursing Home Administrator Certificate course and is a Health Care Consultant and Educator for Lebonheur & Rothman, P.C. of Troy, MI. Vickie is a certified Eden Alternative Educator and Mentor facilitating culture change throughout the Midwest. She provides consultation to nursing homes throughout Michigan on culture change and regulatory compliance. Join Vickie in this session for the "I" Centered Care Plan.

Conference Registration

Your Name: __________________________  Work Affiliation __________________________
Address: ____________________________________________
Email: __________________________
Check enclosed __________  Will bring check ________

Breakout Session Choices (Choose 3 Total)

A. Shelly Weaverdyck, Non Alzheimer’s Dementia
B. Brad Geller, Planning for The Loss of Decision Making Ability
C. Jan Doerr, Hand Reflexology
D. Belinda Garvon, More to Parkinson’s Disease Than Meets the Eye
E. Celeste Goodman, Dealing with Difficult Behaviors
F. Belinda Garvon, More to Parkinson’s Disease Than Meets the Eye
H. Vickie Burlew, “I” Centered Care Plan

Vendor and Door Prizes

For information: Sharon Greenhoe - 989-358-4630