



THE GENERATIONS PROJECT

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Indiana Minority Health Coalition Joins The Generations Project

"Business as usual isn't working for persons in need of home health care in Indiana."

Indianapolis – The Indiana Minority Health Coalition (IMHC) has recently partnered with The Generations Project in an effort to raise public awareness about the need to rebalance Indiana's publicly funded system of long term health care. IMHC is a non-profit organization organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes with a primary focus of improving the health of Indiana's ethnic/racial minority population.

"Access to health care services remains a significant problem for minorities in Indiana," said Stephanie DeKemper, CEO and President of IMHC. "Those in need of long term care in this state are all too often ushered into nursing homes when more appropriate and more cost effective home and community based options could be utilized. We know that racial and ethnic minorities experience excess mortality, morbidity, and disability from preventable conditions; and for those individuals in need of home and community based care in Indiana, business as usual simply isn't working," DeKemper concluded.

With an estimated 35,000 individuals on official waiting lists for publicly funded home and community based care through Indiana's CHOICE program and Medicaid Waivers, accessing appropriate long term care options remains a significant obstacle for all Hoosiers.

"The Generations Project exists to bring Hoosiers together to address the imbalance in Indiana's long term care system," said John Cardwell, Director of The Generations Project. "The addition of the Indiana Minority Health Coalition to the many organizations calling for fundamental change in the way Indiana administers long term health care is reflective of the growing need for long term care services by an aging and diverse population in Indiana. We are thrilled to have them on board," concluded Cardwell.

In the spring of 2003, Governor Frank O'Bannon signed Senate Enrolled Act 493 into law as a way to re-balance Indiana's long term care system. To date, Indiana's Family and Social Services Administration has made little progress in implementing the sweeping provisions of SEA 493. Through statewide outreach and public education, The Generations Project is working to call attention to the significant crisis we face in long term care and the extensive tools we have available through SEA 493 to solve this crisis.