



Safe Communities Falls Prevention Task Force

***Dedicated to reducing falls and harm from
falls in the senior population of Dane County***

Generous funding from Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation, Evjue Foundation, Leck Endowment of Area Agency on Aging, Injury Research Center, United Way

What we know about falls – 2006 in the Dane Co. population 65 or older

- 1268 emergency department visits
- 1085 hospitalizations
- 29 deaths
- \$21,876,000 hospital charges for falls related injuries
- \$20,160 average cost of one fall-related hospitalization

Source: Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health

Goals – In three years

- **To reduce falls related emergency department visits in Dane County by 10%**
- **To reduce falls related hospitalizations by 10%**

History

- Percolating since 1999: Safe Home Visits project; participation in CDC SAFE Study
- 2006 – Safe Communities and MPSC Falls Summit – decision to make a difference in Dane County
- Safe Communities Falls Prevention Task Force – Jan., 2007
- Falls Symposia – Sept., 2007 and May 2008
- Falls Helpline –March, 2008
- Community Education Campaign – Fall 2008

General Interventions

- **Improve the processes of care**
- **Enhancing coordination of services**
- **United Way 2-1-1 Falls Helpline**
- **Mounting a community education campaign**
- **Educating physicians, nurses, physical therapists, and other caregivers**

What's been accomplished

The Task Force

- Meetings monthly since Jan., 2007
- Broad and active representation from 40 health care organizations, community organizations, and the aging network
- Workgroups
 - MD Visit
 - Community Exercise
 - Community Education and Outreach
 - Home Safety Assessment (work completed)
 - Falls Helpline (work completed)

What's been accomplished

United Way 2-1-1 Falls Helpline – March, 2008

**Patient who has fallen or is
at risk for falls seeks needed
evaluation and treatment**

May self refer or be referred from, ED, LTC,
hospital discharge planners, and EMT's

United Way 2-1-1
Falls Helpline

MD evaluation
Examination
PT/OT
Medication Evaluation
Vitamin D
Exercise/ balance

**Aging Network
Case Manager**
Home safety
assessment

What's been accomplished

Falls Symposia – September 07 and May 08

- 120 doctors, nurses, PA's, physical therapists attended
- Faculty – Jane Mahoney, Robert Przybelski and Terry Shea
- Two tracts
 1. doctors, nurses, PA's – evidenced based evaluation and treatment of falls
 2. PT's – Otago Exercise Programme

What's been accomplished

Community Education Campaign

- Brochure and website developed (thanks to Minnesota Falls Prevention Initiative)
- Television public service announcement (seeking sponsorships)
- Cadre of Stepping On Trainers in training
- News conference with Madison Mayor and partners kicking off Falls Helpline

What's been accomplished

An unexpected result !



Better recognition of benefits from coordinating services and care between health care, community organizations, and the aging network

What still needs to be done

- Observe and measure use and value of the United Way 2-1-1 Falls Helpline
- Develop CME program to reach clinicians
- Balance/strengthening exercise videos and pilot classes at senior centers
- Targeted education and screening programs for seniors in development (1 hour; ½ day; full-day)
- Secure additional funds for the increased activity of the Task Force
- Get outcome RESULTS !!

In Conclusion

Please contact Cheryl Wittke (608-256-6713)
or Andy Kosseff (608-238-1337) with questions
or offers of funding.

Contributions are accepted day or night!

